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3 wishes for Alberta Avenue



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WALKING 82ND STREET

City's Neighbourhood Empowerment Team helps residents stay positive.
Photo by Craig Janzen

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NEWS FEATURE • COMMUNITY POLICING

Three Wishes For Alberta Ave

CITY'S NEIGHBOURHOOD
EMPOWERMENT TEAM HELPS
RESIDENTS STAY POSITIVE

BY ANGELA BRUNSCHE

As Florence Fox takes the magic lamp in her hands, social worker Kris Andreychuk asks her to make three wishes. At first the 77-year-old furrows her brow in confusion, then she smiles.

A quiet life, she says, financial security, and her apartment herself.

With the raspy breath and hacking cough of a long-time smoker, Fox explains that a young man has essentially moved into her apartment at 82nd Street and 120th Avenue against her wishes. She's known the man since he was a kid. He came over one day with a bunch of other friends and just stayed. He takes drugs in the bathroom, she says, and comes out screaming. She's asked him to leave, but he keeps coming back.

"He scares me," she says.

Along with his partner Const. Steve Sharpe, Andreychuk is stepping in to help Fox. They've spoken with the resident manager about backing her up if the young man returns. The pair will also be back in the building tomorrow, and the next day, and the day after that.

The two men are part of the 118th Avenue Neighbourhood Empowerment Team, working on proactive crime prevention in partnership with Edmonton Community Services, the police, and the United Way, Capital Region. Youth workers from the Family Centre also help with the team's work.

Each day the pair head out of the police station at 118th Avenue and 81st Street, and visit shopkeepers, business owners and residents in the area.

The magic lamp — a silver teakettle that Sharpe found at a Salvation Army second-hand store — is one way of asking residents what their goals are, and keeps the conversation on positive footing. Andreychuk has used the technique successfully in one-on-one counselling, and hopes it will encourage residents to start thinking about the future of the community.

The pair has also staked out a little turf of land, four buildings along 120th Avenue at 82nd Street, as a way of concentrating their efforts. The area was identified as a trouble spot for crime in the

community. Working with a slew of partner organizations — Arts On The Ave., Catholic Social Services, Homeward Trust, Edmonton Arts Council, city bylaw, and Alberta Health Services — they are helping clean up the area. In December, the team helped with the Miracle On 82nd Street event in the alley behind the apartment buildings. On that day, music and conversation filled the otherwise blank parking lots. The Christmas lights donated from local businesses for the event are still hanging on trees and fences.

Florence Fox's building has greatly improved in the last year, and shows what can be done in the area, says Andreychuk. In the nondescript walk-up, he gestures to a clean wall with a splashed-paint modern art piece. Last February when he first started going into the building, there was a swastika on the wall, used needles on the laundry room floor, and one child ended up in the hospital because of bedbug bites and scabies, he says. The new manager "runs a tight ship," says Andreychuk.

It's not always so easy to see results. There may actually be an increase in calls to police from these buildings, but that doesn't mean that there's more crime there. It could mean more people are engaged in their community and want to make it better.

"There's a story behind all these calls," says Andreychuk. "NET's job is to find out what that story is."

THE HOLDOUTS

For the most part, Andreychuk and Sharpe are received with smiles and handshakes as they knock on doors, but there are a few reluctant residents and businesses.

One woman on 82nd Street has trouble saying her wishes out



Florence Fox speaks with the Neighbourhood Empowerment Team in her apartment.

PHOTO BY ANGELA BRUNSCHE

ALBERTA AVE (cont'd from p. 3)

loud. Sharpe and Andreychuk first met her when they followed up on a call about a fight in her apartment. The pair tries to meet up with her frequently, helping her feel safe in the community and deal with some personal issues.

But the 20-something woman, who asked not to be named, just wants to get out of the neighbourhood as quickly as she can.

"I hate living down here," she says. "People (are) walking around trying to start shit, when you are just trying to get by."

Eventually she holds the magic lamp and says she'd like to go to school, be happier, and fix her relationship with her family. Andreychuk offers to help connect her with a different therapist, and encourages her to stay in contact.

"I know this seems kind of goofy, but we are serious," he says as he puts the magic lamp back into his

black bag.

Perhaps this young woman feels like she's hit rock bottom, says Sharpe, but overall she's a good person. Part of their work entails keeping good residents in the area. The team's contact could mean the difference between this woman staying or leaving. There's a big difference, he says, between real crime and a young woman dealing with a nasty break-up.

"It's not a bad building or a bad neighbourhood," Sharpe says. "It's just folks dealing with issues."

Talking to residents on 82nd Street is just the pair's most recent project. They are also out on 118th Avenue, visiting various business owners.

At the Canadian Dollar Store, Andreychuk points to the pocketknives in the front counter, and gestures up to the till where he says the crack pipes are kept. Seemingly innocuous water bottles sit on the bottom shelf. They have a false bottom and can be

used to store many things, including drugs, Sharpe explains.

As soon as the owner recognizes Andreychuk, she yells at him to get out, waving her arms in the air. "I don't want to see you again," she says. "You give me a headache."

That's not surprising. The crack pipes and pocketknives have drawn considerable ire from the community. The We Believe In 118 campaign to rid the avenue of weapons brought national press attention, and the pressure isn't letting up.

At the next building, Pussycat Video, a porn and adult toy store, the owner has removed a similar display. Instead, there's a row of dildos.

Walking down the back alley, Andreychuk shrugs and says it's not the total change many people would like to see, but at least the dildos aren't contributing to crime.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

One important aspect of the NET

program is that the team is only in the neighbourhood for limited period of time. Eventually, the two men will move on and the community must take over. The team works towards their eventual departure by identifying and encouraging leaders in the community. Sometimes the pair simply provides information and support. In other cases, they start a project and then help a community partner take it over.

At a bright and sparkly clean office on 118th Avenue and 95th Street, the pair stops to check in with Jockam Holtz, the executive director of the Alberta Avenue Business Association. Holtz has a business block captain initiative in the works. Mirroring the residential block parent program, business owners will take a leadership role on the avenue, watching for crime on their small stretch of 118th Avenue. Through Holtz, owners can also call the beat cop on duty if an incident arises. It's a much

more efficient system, he says.

Andreychuk also helps run 'the spoke' at the old Alberta Cycle building at 91st Street. The program was created after concerns arose about youth stealing and dismantling bikes in the area. Participants choose a donated bike, and fix it up through regular classes. The Edmonton Bike Commuters' Society, which has always been a partner, will take over the project when they open their second location on the avenue in the spring. The society will add a youth night, and keep it going under their umbrella.

"Once we leave, the program will live on," he says.

At the end of the day Andreychuk runs into Dane Stasiukof, the manager of Florence Fox's apartment building. He reminds Stasiukof that he'll be by the building tomorrow, and raises the case holding the magic lantern, saying: "I have a surprise for you." He smiles.

LETTER

I always look forward to seeing the political cartoon by Fred Curatolo, and I'm not even a political guy.

He's very talented, reminds me of the great artists in *Mad Magazine*. I really liked the color one with Harper this week — it's funny like always and the color really stands out.

The lighting and colors on Harper's face look so fresh and alive.

What a treat! Thanks.

GARETT GUNDERSON

COMMENTS FROM THE WEB

I don't believe Bob used the word "Newfie" in that quote you have here. [The Sea Change Of The Music Industry, SEE Magazine #895] I think you put that in because that's the word you use and the word you expect your readership to use.

LE

Being from Cape Breton, I asked the question about why he thought there were so many Bluenoses and Newfies coming out to his shows. If anything, he was just using my question in his answer.

Also, I use the name Newfie as a term of endearment because of my aforementioned heritage, if any insult was taken it was not implied.

TRENT WILKIE

It's not a term of endearment for all Newfoundlanders; some find it very pejorative. Sometimes it's not primarily a matter of what was implied, rather one of what winds up being inferred. If you say "Newfoundland," you neither insult nor offend anyone who is reading you.

LE

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frontlines

THE ENDLESS COUNCIL PAY DEBATE

Nothing ties a politician up in knots quite like the seemingly eternal question of pay raises for themselves. Should they get a raise? How much is too much? What will the public say? What will the unions say?

There isn't an elected body in the land that hasn't engaged in this song and dance. You'd think by now they would get it right.

Edmonton city council recently went through the agonizing experience of naming their own pay raise, and reached new heights of confusion in the process.

Council was presented with a report from an independent council compensation committee that recommended a 4.64 per cent hike, based on Statistics Canada number that revealed 4.64 per cent was the average increase in Alberta. That should have been enough for council to rubber stamp the report, take their hardly outrageous 4.64 per cent, and get on with other business.

But no. First they had to debate a motion for a 1.5 per cent hike, which was lost. Then

there was the motion for no increase, which was also shot down. Ultimately, after a long and pointless debate, council settled on the original 4.64 per cent total. But wait, there's more. Mayor Stephen Mandel isn't going to take his raise. Others aren't taking it either; the city will post who takes what at a later day. Surely, after so many years and at so many levels, there must be a better way of solving the problem of political pay raises. And there is. Just keep the politicians out of it. As Coun. Ben Henderson said after the meeting: "For me, this is not about the money ... we should not be interfering with this except at the policy level."

Exactly. Set up a policy that allows for pay raises based on the cost of living, or the average yearly pay hike in Alberta, or union settlements, or whatever. Set up the policy, agree to it, and never bring it city council again. Take it out of the hands of politicians so we never have to go through this dog-and-pony show again.

REVITALIZATION BUREAUCRACY

Early this week, Mayor Stephen Mandel created a mature neighbourhood task force headed by former downtown councillor Michael Phair.

It seems like a great move. Planning and development are city responsibilities that have a huge effect on where families live. Well-designed, vital mature neighbourhoods can help the entire city by limiting all kinds of problems, from crime to congestion. And Phair will bring a deep well of local knowledge to the project.

Still, creating a task force seems like another unnecessary level of bureaucracy. Edmonton already has revitalization projects on the go in Jasper Place, McCauley, Queen

Mary Park and Central McDougall. As any involved resident could tell you, calendars are already stuffed full of meetings to talk about sidewalk widening and tree planting. Not that there's anything wrong with that exactly. Proper streetscaping can have a big impact on a neighbourhood. But window-dressing is no good if the house itself is falling apart.

Hopefully, council will also do some heavy lifting in the policy department. Tax changes — encouraging infill development specifically — could really help mature neighbourhoods. It won't be as politically popular as planting trees or creating committees, but it might get the job done.

BY THE NUMBERS • THE BRIGHT SIDE OF EDMONTON

Hours of bright sunshine per year, according to Environment Canada

Edmonton 2299.1
Toronto 2037.6
Vancouver 1928



“ I DON’T THINK ALBERTA’S POLITICIANS ARE BAD OR EVIL BUT THEY ARE INCOMPETENT AND DUMBER THAN YOUR AVERAGE MONKEY ”

—Joe Anglin of the Lavesta Area Group, as quoted in *theteye.ca*

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



POINT OF VIEW • PROVINCIAL POLITICS

Cynical Leadership Search



OUTSIDE POLITICS MAURICE TOUGAS
ARE YOU THE NEXT LEADER OF A PROVINCIAL PARTY?
READ ON AND FIND OUT IF YOU'VE GOT THE GOODS.

Remember back in the last boom when jobs were so plentiful that any chump with a Grade 10 education was pulling in good money? And I'm not talking about Ralph Klein.

There's a new job boom in Alberta right now, but it's in the limited and rather unappealing field of politics. Three parties are in the market for leaders at the same time, creating an unprecedented opportunity for leadership types. Each party has mostly minor differences in philosophy that potential candidates are expected to believe in, but all parties are flexible; if you look like a winner, a past conviction for manslaughter would be dismissed as a youthful mistake that could have happened to anyone.

All parties are in search of a star leader, someone with youth, charisma-

ism, looks, broad public appeal and obvious (but not too obvious) intelligence. (I know what you're saying: "Maurice, what about you? That describes you perfectly.") Well, thank you, I'm flattered. But my deep contempt for humanity would make it difficult for me to pretend I cared. Thanks for asking, though.) The right leader can revitalize a moribund party, or kick start a new one. Consider Danielle Smith of the Wildrose Alliance, who is unquestionably the hottest commodity in Alberta politics today, miles ahead of her own party. Take her out of the equation, and the Wildrose is just a party of angry guys in wheat pool caps complaining about property rights.

So exactly what are we looking for in an ideal Alberta political leader? Let's break it down into vital categories.

Sex: Sorry, that's a little personal, isn't it?

Gender: There, that's better.

Traditionally, leadership roles in Alberta politics have been pretty much of a guy's game. We've never had a woman premier and female leaders of any provincial party have been rare, and, to be blunt, not particularly successful. But the world is changing, and today a female leader is not only acceptable, it might even

be a plus, giving your party that progressive sheen. Right now, I would give a female leadership candidate a slight edge.

But what if you're gay? A gay potential leadership candidate should make sure everyone knows he/she is gay, either subtly with a casual mention ("My life-partner Lance is very supportive of me ..."), or drop it into a sentence ("As Alberta's first openly gay leader ...") then never mention it again. Let somebody else bring it up and look homophobic in the process. But if you're NOT going to come out before running, you must stay in the closet for the rest of your career if you win. We're willing to be inclusive, but we don't want to be tricked into being so.

Age: Technically, the leadership of the party is open to anyone of any age. But realistically, there are minimums and maximums.

All of the parties looking for leaders right now are looking to revitalize themselves, or establish themselves as progressive and forward thinking. This is code for young, as, apparently, older people are incapable of progressive thought. But this brings us to the question — what is young, and what is too young? Well, if you're the type of person who

TOUGAS cont'd on pg. 7

Dim Sum Best Enjoyed In Large Groups



**OUR REVIEWER
CELEBRATES CHINESE NEW
YEAR WITH AN AFTERNOON
AT CHA FOR TEA PALACE**

CHA FOR TEA PALACE
17512 Stony Plain Rd., 780-443-2832

BY SCOTT LINGLEY

There was a time in my life when dim sum was considered a general remedy and tonic for the sort of dissipation endemic to North Americans of a certain age, socio-economic status and propensity for the occasional debauch. It wasn't so much that a Sunday-brunch-after-a-Saturday-bender comprised of steamer bas-

kets jammed with doughy pork buns, chicken's feet in black bean sauce, rice rolls and turnip cake had some directly salutary effect upon one's afflicted organs so much as you'd amass a nice meat lump in your gut around which the rest of your body could congeal for a drowsy afternoon on the couch replenishing your electrolytes and watching *The Wild Bunch*.

As I matured – and more often found myself in the company of vegetarians when overhung – dim sum's endless permutations of meat became less attractive as a brunch option (and in any case my preferences in Asian food drifted from Chinese to Vietnamese and Thai). Not to mention, the atmosphere in dim sum places can tend to the chaotic – it's a meal often enjoyed by large groups and the densely-personed dining room patrolled by countless carts laden with a seemingly endless array of food – and that never does much

for one's headache.

Sunday past was, however, the first chance many of us had to observe Chinese New Year and the advent of the Year of the Rabbit. My perennial co-diner and I considered plunging into Chinatown to see if we could squeeze into one of the doubtless teeming dim-sumeries of repue, but a quick check with the Google revealed a tight cluster of dim sum places in the west end – if we struck out at one, we were within blocks of two more chances. A random right turn off 170th Street brought us up at Cha for Tea Palace, which was surrounded by a daunting quantity of cars. Fortunately its red, gold and cream interior is huge, filled with large-capacity tables surrounded by gilt chairs and lit up with sparkling chandeliers. Just past noon, it was controlled chaos, with parties spilling across multiple tables, about a third of the restaurant in the act of taking off or putting on their coats

and a fleet of food carts threading through the melee doling out bits of food on demand. Despite this, we were seated within a few minutes of arriving, and we were eating approxi-

THE TAB: \$57 FOR TWO (FOOD ONLY)

THE GIST: GUNG HAY FAT CHOY

**TRY THE: CURRIED SQUID
AVOID: LOSING TRACK**

mately one minute after that.

I don't know if it was because we were seated at a particularly busy intersection of the restaurant, but we were assailed with service the instant ass met chair. We were bid a happy new year, then a cart dropped off pork ribs, curried squid, and some sticky rice wrapped in a banana leaf, a pot of tea arrived, water was on its way and someone asked us if we wanted some ginger beef. After a further minute, we had incurred rice rolls with shrimp, lemongrass chicken skewers and panfried eggplant with pork. The table in front of us was covered with food, most of it meat.

Our mistake, you see, was that we had no strategy. We didn't agree

in advance on what we wanted to sample from selection of 61 dim sum items in Cha for Tea's current repertoire (available for inspection on their website) and, somewhat taken aback by the unprecedented cheerfulness of the staff, we just said yes to the first eight things we were offered.

That said, it worked out remarkably well. The curried squid, for example, was superb – on the chewy side of al dente and intensely charged with garlic, chili and a surprise whiff of cardamom. I probably could have made a meal out of just the sticky rice with soy sauce and pork at its warm core, but then I would have missed out on the amazing deep fried lemongrass chicken skewers and their ultra-crispy coating drizzled with ginger syrup. The ginger beef was sweet and crunchy like candy. As I was tucking into a slice of violet-skinned eggplant steamed with seasoned pork, I heard a distant rumbling that I initially mistook for a fore-tremor of the gastrointestinal peril I would find myself in by the end of the meal. The racket grew until two huge yellow dragon-dogs burst through the door and began shimmying their way through the restaurant, accompanied by their own cacophonous percussion regi-

DIM SUM cont'd on p. 7

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POINT OF VIEW • CANADA

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THE TAB: \$30 for two**THE GIST:** Authentic, affable, affordable Lebanese cuisine.**TRY:** Mezza for two**FAMOSO NEAPOLITAN PIZZERIA**

13655 St. Albert Trail (780) 732-0222

THE TAB: \$30 for two (food only)**THE GIST:** Rising local chain gets pizza exactly right.**TRY:** Bella pizza with roasted mushrooms**GINI'S**

10706 142nd St. (780) 451-1169

THE TAB: \$10 for two (food only)**THE GIST:** Hidden gem status confirmed.**TRY:** Traditional fish soup**KABUKI**

8724 109th St. (780) 437-0077

THE TAB: \$50 for two (food only)**THE GIST:** Blame not the Garneau sushi underdog.**TRY:** Magic tuna**DIM SUM (cont'd from p. 6)**

ment. Up close we could only marvel at the intricacy and artfulness of the costumes-slash-puppets, right down to the fitfully wagging tails mysteriously powered by the guys at the back half of the costumes. I'd bet that roughly 5,000 photos were taken during their 10-minute performance, which was enjoyable in exactly the way restaurant bellydancers aren't. In true dim sum fashion, we ended up with slightly more than we could

LOS COMALES

10824 97th St. (780) 423-1213

THE TAB: \$28 for two (food only)**THE GIST:** Basically tasty central American Fare.**TRY:** Pupusas (\$2.95 each)**MORIARTY'S BISTRO AND WINE BAR**

10154 100th St. (780) 757-2005

THE TAB: \$90 for three (food only)**THE GIST:** Affordable extravagance — wine is extra.**TRY:** Hazel nut mahi mahi with lobster truffle risotto**OIL LAMP UNIQUE DINING**

10247 97th St. (780) 429-0808

THE TAB: \$45 for two**THE GIST:** An unexpected oasis**TRY:** Lunch special**THANH TAM VIETNAMESE NOODLE HOUSE**

1121 156th St. (780) 447-3360

THE TAB: \$22 for two (food only)**THE GIST:** Standard issue Viet food, only less so.**TRY:** Kim Chi**URBAN DINER**

12427 102nd Ave. (780) 488-7274

THE TAB: \$40 for two (food only)**THE GIST:** They make it so easy.**TRY:** Daily special

ILLUSTRATION BY ANDY COOKSON



HIDDEN NINJA FISH GRIWKOWSKY
BANDWIDTH COSTS
PENNIES, AND METERING
WILL HURT BOTH UNDER-
GROUND INNOVATION AND
SMALL BUSINESSES ALIKE

The Internet is in serious structural and philosophical peril in Canada. Despite the delay of usage-based billing last week by Industry Minister Tony Clement, and even his statement that an apparently pointless new review by the CRTC on the subject of metered bandwidth will have no negative effect on consumers regardless of its outcome, the language being used by both telcos like Bell and the CRTC itself should set be an absolute call to defences for anyone who goes online.

The idea of charging \$4 per gig after an utterly arbitrarily decided amount — what the greedheads term "excess use" — has set off righteous protests across the country to the point some are accusing the Tories of taking political advantage of the situation. The way I see it, if they do the right thing here and stop the insatiable phone companies we all know and adore from monopoly/duopoly-fucking us even further, Harper is that much closer to getting my vote. You heard me.

Numerous independent estimates on the cost of delivering a gig of information ring in at about three cents, after all. And the excuse, used often by the \$100 neckties, that

bandwidth should be handled parallel to some sort of finite resource which goes away after it's used is not only a complete misrepresentation, but ignores the fact resources which actually do vanish are one and all subsidized by the government due to their essential nature.

Well, the web is no longer some luxury used by fanboy outsiders, it's the greatest communication device in human history. It is, in short, us. All its faults are in fact a perfect mirror of ourselves, our culture and, it goes without saying, sits as a juicy circulatory system for international commerce that the foreign telcos would apparently like to limit within Canadians' ability to internationally compete. In such a scenario, a globalized company with ample spare

money could constantly access the web pages of its competitors, using their own bandwidth charges as a weapon to drive them off the Internet. That may sound ridiculous, but at \$4/gig it wouldn't take long. Or consider Skype, which allows small businesses like my wife's to communicate with her partners, no matter where they are on earth. Suddenly, after already paying for speed, we now have to worry about how much we talk to each other? We were supposed to be technologically past that, man. In fact, we are. But there's no "competition" currently out there who is rallying against this model, as the CRTC is claiming. This is a big issue, ripe with corporate fallacies revealing a set of double standards which as usual favour those making exorbitant profits. If bandwidth is so finite, why don't I get a rebate if I don't use all mine? Why can't I elect to share my unused portion with my neighbour who streams TV? And incidentally, why, in Canada, do we

have such entrapping cell phone policies compared to other nations? You know the answers to these questions as surely as you know why the Gulf of Mexico is polluted and the housing market collapsed in the U.S. Because companies are jogging drunkenly on our graves before we're even dead with little or no regulation, such as that which saved the Canadian banking system. I praise Tony Clement's efforts, but have no faith in their legal survival — which is not to say underground innovation won't find a way around this mess. But it will, as always, be named illegal and result in guilt-trip commercials with horrible guitar solos soundtracking them, claiming open source funds terrorism.

The most ridiculous part of all of this is — and I've been watching it professionally since 1998 — at the point where businesses have finally pulled their heads out of their asses, dropped the lawyers and created successful models for selling content online, this sort of chess move hits. I don't think that's a coincidence, actually. It follows the established pattern of primary industries suddenly jacking their prices during the dot com boom when they realized people were laying mountains of cash on San Francisco "content creators." Bush's brownout recession followed though, again, the Americans are not falling for this. But we were that close, March 1.

Go on and pretend this micro-monitoring won't affect you, that it's OK if our web billing comes to resemble fine-print cell phone contracts. But can you honestly believe limiting how much Canadians use the web to connect with each other and the rest of the world could possibly be a good thing?

TOUGAS (cont'd from p. 5)

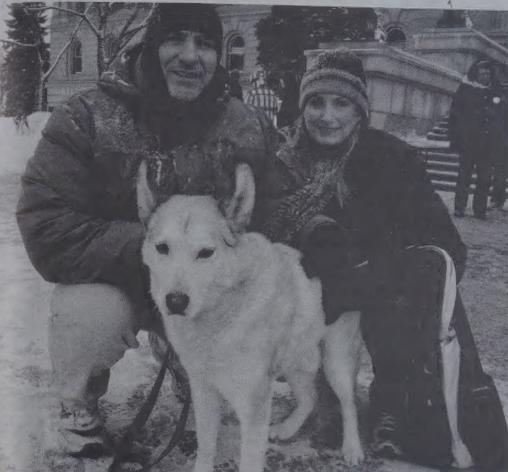
never misses *Wheel of Fortune*, you're too old. If you're the type of person who never misses *Glee*, then you're too young. Basically, you have to be over 40 to be considered a legit candidate, with between 45 and 55 the ideal age bracket. This gives you life experience and a little bit of wisdom. Anyone older than 60, which used to be when a lot of politicians started their careers, is going to have a tough time selling themselves as an agent of change.

Background: All leaderships are open to anyone, but realistically, if you haven't lived in Alberta for at least 20 years, you're still an outsider. Deep roots in Alberta are great, the deeper the better. Ethnic origin is not a vital part of the equation, but if you can summon tears about your Ukrainian ancestors, that will be worth a few thousand crucial votes. Work history should involve some connection to oil and/or agri-

culture, however tangential; even if you only worked as an Esso station for a summer, that's good enough. Wistfully recalling a job where you got your hands dirty (oil rig worker, farmer) shows you're a man/woman of the people, in tune with our most important industries. Education is good, but beware being labelled an "egghead". (Ted Morton is a classic egghead, but he is also portrayed as an outdoorsman, so that negates the egghead problem.)

So there you have it. If you're a smart (but not too smart; no higher than an University of Calgary grad) 40-ish female who grew up on a farm in Alberta (Saskatchewan will do in a pinch), moved to Edmonton or Calgary and started your own oil and gas company while raising 2.5 children, joined a political party within the last five-10 years because you "wanted to make a difference," then you're just what some political party is looking for. Take your pick.

Animal Lovers Protest Deaths



Troy and Lori Trudeau kneel beside their best bud Flionn. PHOTO BY ANDREW PAUL

EDMONTON AND AREA ADVOCATES SAY SUPPORT FOR SLED DOGS IS AVAILABLE

BY ANDREW PAUL

Dozens of dog owners rallied on the steps of the Alberta Legislature last weekend to protest the slaughter of sled dogs in Whistler B.C. last year.

The crowd shouted: "Shame, shame, shame," demanding Alberta toughen up its animal cruelty laws to prevent a similar incident from happening here.

"Our (Alberta's) penalties are low, our quality of enforcement is low and we don't yet have mandatory reporting by veterinarians," Rachel Notley, MLA for Edmonton-Strathcona, says. "Those are the key issues."

The push for tougher legislation stems from an incident in April 2010 when Robert Fawcett, manager and one-time owner of Howling Dogs Tour Whistler Inc., shot up to 100 sled dogs.

The company is now owned by Outdoor Adventures, which is conducting its own investigation, according to its website.

Fawcett filed for compensation from the B.C. Workers Compensation Board, citing post-traumatic stress disorder related to the incident, which is how the deaths came to light.

According to a joint statement on the Outdoor Adventures website, "considerable efforts were made to arrange for dogs to be adopted," but were unsuccessful.

"I feel very sorry for him if he believed that there wasn't any help for those dogs and no alternative, because clearly there was," says Lori Trudeau, Second Chance Animal Rescue Society (SCARS) volunteer, adding that SCARS would have taken some of the animals if Fawcett

had only contacted the group.

"He'll pay the price for that emotionally for the rest of his life."

Located in Athabasca, north of Edmonton, SCARS rescues and finds homes for about 50 dogs every month.

During her time with SCARS, Trudeau has helped find homes for rescued sled dogs. Her own pet, Flionn Mac Cool, is a rescue.

When the dog came to the Trudeau's in September 2009 he was in rough shape.

With a raging infection and an inflamed prostate Flionn was 10 pounds under weight and scratching at death's doggy door.

"He was kept in the bush his whole life, tied to five-foot chain and never let off his leash, so he never learned to be a dog, he never learned to be with people," Trudeau says.

Today Flionn is healthy thanks to his new family.

Trudeau feels awful that rescued sled dogs get a bad wrap as being unfit for human contact, and says that with a little care these dogs can be integrated into family life.

However, it must be understood that not all animals are raised as pets, Notley says.

Alberta has a strong agricultural background that was built on commercial relationships between people and their animals.

"But whether it's a commercial relationship or a personal relationship, we have to treat animals humanely and as a society we need to hold that standard," Notley says.

"We need to step up enforcement and our capacity to actually inspect and monitor and to respond to complaints."

If you know of dogs in need of rescue visit SCARS at www.scarscare.org or call 780-466-7227.

Painful Federal Red Tape



HOLISTIC HEALTH ROBERTA SHEPHERD
NATURAL HEALTH COMPANIES HAVE NO HISTORY OF HUMAN TRIALS TO FALL BACK ON

The other day I was talking to a colleague and friend of mine who recently purchased St. John's Wort for issues of despair and depression, something this herb is frequently used for. She said she would never have known that St. John's Wort interacts with the birth control pills she's taking if the employee at Optimum Health Vitamins not mentioned it.

This story brings to mind the very real issue of herb and drug interactions. Regulations around dispensing herbs are a valid consideration. Alas, it seems that as the Canadian government attempts to put such regulations in place, the natural health industry has been on a tumultuous ride.

During a recent visit to Optimum Health Vitamins here in Edmonton, I discussed the topic with Nakita Valeiro, treasurer and campaign manager of the Freedom of Access to Dietary Supplements Association (suspandreview.com) and John Biggs, owner of Optimum Health since 1994 and executive member of the NHPA (Natural Health Products Protection Association, nhppa.org). I learned the details of the industry's story that starts in 2004, when the Canadian government implemented the Natural Health Product Regulations that classify natural health products (NHPs) as a sub-category of drugs alongside pharmaceuticals.

The regulations require manufacturers to obtain product licensing in order to distribute their products. Application for product licensing is a grueling process that demands, among other things, human clinical trials. Since NHPs were previously classified as food, no one in the industry performed human clinical trials, so leaders in the industry had nothing to draw from and had to start from scratch. Moreover, before commencement, there's an extensive process of proposal to the NHP Directorate (a branch of Health Canada), which first needs to approve trials. Human clinical trials are expensive to conduct and, unlike the pharmaceutical industry, the natural health industry doesn't have billions of dollars with which to conduct such trials.

Since 2004, many manufacturers of NHPs have pursued long, costly

application processes to gain approval for their products that have resulted in rejection. Several manufacturers, especially those whose products are imported from other countries, have opted to pull their products from the market instead of spending scores of time and money to seek approval from Health Canada. As

ees including having them prove their identity to inspector satisfaction. Previously, this kind of action by Health Canada required approval and supervision from the court. This new legislation sounds draconian to me. It could result in many more manufacturers going out of business and products dis-

THE NATURAL HEALTH INDUSTRY HAS BEEN ON A TUMULTUOUS RIDE

a result, over 40,000 NHPs have disappeared from Canadian shelves. That's more than half the NHPs that were on the market before 2004. This is concerning to holistic health practitioners such as myself, small businesses' manufacturing NHPs, storeowners selling NHPs and, most importantly, Canadians who benefit from using NHPs.

Perhaps all the more devastating to the industry is the recent passing of Bill C-36 in Parliament on Dec. 14. The bill will allow Health Canada inspectors access to private property without a warrant where they can search the premises, seize products, documents and/or vehicles used for transporting products and force compliance by owners and employ-

pearing from the market.

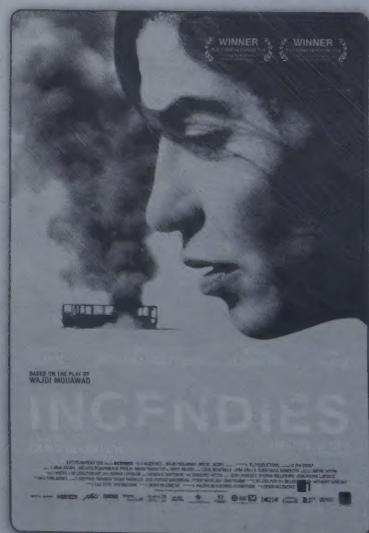
It is my strong belief that, concurrent to consideration of risks posed to the public upon taking NHPs in an uninformed way, the Canadian government should investigate the risks of enforcing laws that strip the market of valuable alternative health remedies.

It's alarming that a valuable industry seems to be at risk of going under because of difficulty imposing proper regulations. I wonder what more may be behind said difficulties, like the pharmaceutical industry perhaps. In an apparent attempt to protect Canadians, we are essentially being stripped of the right to choose our own health care.

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ALBERTA BALLET BRINGS EUROPEAN PASSIONS TO STAGE WITH SIZZLING FOUR SEASONS & CANTATA

FOUR SEASONS & CANTATA

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BY CAROL NEUMAN

"Your relationship to art is a little bit like having sex," says Alberta Ballet's artistic director, Jean Grand-Maitre. "It's about not being afraid of being seduced. People today are so retentive. We have to somehow remember that if we're going to an opera or a ballet or a concert, we're going to have a sensuous experience. And so, it's about letting loose."

Nothing promises to be freer, or farther away from the cold, clear formalism of classical ballet than the upcoming Canadian tour of *Four Seasons & Cantata*, performed by Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal and presented to Calgary and Edmonton audiences by the Alberta Ballet.

Perhaps most interesting of all, however, is that when the curtain parts on *Four Seasons & Cantata*, the star of the show won't be on stage. It's not Vivaldi, but another Italian virtuoso — superstar choreographer Mauro Bigonzetti.

Gradimir Pankov, artistic director of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, worked with Bigonzetti to develop the *Four Seasons & Cantata* duos for his company.

"Mauro is very charming, appealing to the dancers very calmly," Pankov says. "He's not a prima donna or imposing. He's vulnerable. It was fantastic for him to have good contact with the dancers during the working period."

Bigonzetti's approach to the work breaks with expectations of a literal interpretation of the Four Seasons.

"It's not about four seasons of nature, but four seasons of the human being," explains Pankov. "They're four different moods. In the spring, there's a girl and a boy separated and then coming together. Later there is a couple fraught with confrontation. The next couple has a charming relationship. Next, in the winter, it's very brutal and they're very aggressive towards one another."

SUMPTUOUSNESS ON STAGE

In the *Cantata*, by contrast, Bigonzetti puts to stage the earthy, passionate rhythms of his homeland. It's a piece that, contends Grand-Maitre, confronts audiences by taking pro-

vocative risks.

"There's something about it that's trying to say to us, 'why are we afraid of seduction and mystery? What's wrong with us?'" "The cantata has a live Gypsy band — Gruppo Musicale Assurd — from the south of Italy which shares the stage with the dancers. You really feel like you're at a huge romp somewhere in a southern Italian village and that there's going to be all these love stories happening between the characters."

From this union comes new ideas and new esthetics.

"For dancers to work on stage with the band is quite an experience," Grand-Maitre says. "You have everything to win from this and very little to lose."

Pankov explains that the pairing of the live musicians on stage reflects the folk traditions of southern Europe.

"On Sunday, after going to church you go to celebrate in the afternoon; you have wine, and you have a picnic in the fields. And there, it was all together — dancing, singing, playing guitar. This is what makes this piece unsophisticated, earthy and very strong."

And for Grand-Maitre, it's contagious. "It's very human," he says. "It's people dancing. It's a free style of dance that uses a lot of technique. It flows and soars. It's highly athletic dance. But it's also a down-to-earth passion as well, so the dancers have a sense of freedom to be expressing themselves."

Bigonzetti embodies the belief that art should reveal everything that is human about us, Grand-Maitre says.

"Sometimes the things we need to see are the things that provoke us," he says. But Bigonzetti, he contends, tackles this challenge in a sensuous way that achieves the delicate balance between exposing the drama of our humanity and the pleasure of beautifully executed dance.

CANADA THROUGH EUROPE

For a pair of pieces that have been performed everywhere from Paris and Munich to Cairo and Tel Aviv, Pankov had a bit of trepidation about bringing *Four Seasons & Cantata* to Canada.

Would the reception for Bigonzetti's bold pieces be as strong in North America, where clean lines and restrained classical technique still reign? It was a risk Pankov was willing to take, however, contending that dance companies "have to give the public the feeling they need to expect the unexpected."

Grand-Maitre agrees, noting

"THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT IT THAT'S TRYING TO SAY TO US, 'WHY ARE WE AFRAID OF SEDUCTION AND MYSTERY?'"



that this is a decidedly European approach to audience-making.

"Europe is the place where people go to the theatre to be surprised," Grand-Maitre says. "They don't want to go see something they know."

And in partnering with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, which largely specializes in European repertoire, the Alberta Ballet has chosen to bring this European repertoire and sensibility to Edmonton.

It's a venture that wouldn't have

been possible years ago, Grand-Maitre says, but the appetite for contemporary dance in Alberta has grown in recent years.

"Every city has its own soul and if you look at the arts scenes of the cities, they're quite different in tone and themes, how they examine relationship to culture. You work with the community to determine what it is they want to be challenged with."

But, without exposure to emerging artists and changing idioms of expression, taste can stagnate.

The Canadian public in different cities deserves to see what happens in other places.

"When you work with different companies, you are differently inspired," Pankov says. The companies have personalities. It's important to have an exchange between the companies.

It's fantastic that we can bring the culture of Montreal or Vancouver or Winnipeg to our city, he says. "I think it helps us feel our country a little bit more."



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Adrian Tomine's *Scenes from an Impending Marriage* is available now. | PHOTO SUPPLIED

**IF IT GETS DIFFICULT
TO FIND THE INSPIRATION,
COMIC ARTISTS HEAD TO
THE BASICS: HAVE FUN**

BY KENTON SMITH

According to comics journalist Joe Sacco, every cartoonist probably has a bit of a masochistic streak.

"Artistically, what I do is exhausting, very labour intensive," says Sacco, who won an American Book Award in 1996 for his comics journalism series, *Palestine*.

Just glance at almost any given page of Sacco's art — whether it's from *Palestine*, *The Fixer* (2003) or *Footnotes in Gaza* (2009) — and you can see the sheer grinding effort staring back at you. The painstaking line work of a torrential rainstorm in *Palestine* suggests untold hours of wrist-cramping action at the drawing board.

Look at the meticulously ordered and precisely designed panels of Chris Ware in his *Acme Novelty Library* series. By contrast, there's a laboured chaos in the work of underground Quebec artist Richard McGuire; his technique in 2007's *My Life as a Foot* sometimes seemingly consists of blanketing the page with drawing from one side to the other.

For decades, the roughly standard comics industry practice was for various hands to complete various aspects of the finished book or strip: one person penciled, another inked, etc. The division of labour increased productivity.

However, with the rise of so-called "alternative" or "literary" comics, emphasis has shifted back to the individual artists' visions. Which means some of the most celebrated artists today are people who insist on making a lot of work for themselves.

"Drawing is generally like digging a ditch," Sacco says. "I basically know how far I'll get each day."

On average, he completes two pages every five days.

Adrian Tomine, whose 2007 *Shortcomings* was chosen as a *New York Times* Notable Book, required about a week to complete a page for that project. Of course, he utilized what he admits was perhaps an "overly obsessive drawing style."

"I think 'labouring' is the perfect word," Tomine says. That's evident in Tomine's precise style in *Shortcomings* — a certain minimalism, or reductionism, that looks deceptively simple on the surface, but suggests great effort put into the final look of every panel — reflected most prominently in the exactness of the characters' facial and body language.

"It's hard to break down whether form follows function or the other way around," Sacco says.

Sacco felt it necessary to provide readers a genuine sense of place.

"There's that journalistic imperative to draw things as I saw them: cars, buildings, clothing, etc.," he explains. "Basically, the work calls for accuracy and detail."

Of course, the ever-present risk for any comics artist is overworking the image, which on the reduced page will be unforgiving of excess.

By contrast, during the drawing of *Shortcomings* Tomine "was constantly fighting against an undercurrent of stiffness" that usually comes from photo referencing. (For that matter, when he looks back now, the work still looks too detailed.)

The art in Tomine's brand-new, *Scenes from an Impending Marriage*, by contrast, has a looser, more "cartoony" look. And it's not wrong to think the style is less labor intensive or that Tomine's use of it had only to do with stylistic experimentation.

"The style of *Scenes from an Impending Marriage* was completely reactionary — almost like an antidote," he says. This is likely because the project wasn't originally intended for publication and Tomine felt totally uninhibited, and emancipated in terms of drawing style. He completed one to two pages daily.

"It was a welcome reminder that drawing comics could actually be fun," he says. "Not just an arduous slog towards a very distant goal."

It prompts the question of if the time and labour invested is worth it.

The trick, Sacco says, is to choose projects wisely. Not that we would consider simplifying his style for journalistic work. But in answer to the question: "I think the payoff is worth it, yes."

This Art Happens All Around Us

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Runs until Feb. 19

BY YURI WUENSCH

As part of the fourth-annual *5 Artists, I Love* art show in celebration of Black History Month at TU Gallery, the general public has been invited to submit a 12 x 12 inch piece of art on the subject of "black people." In addition to his other works being featured in the show, Edmonton graffiti artist Adrian Louden is taking part

of people come out. But I don't think it's a very approachable topic for the non-black community. People may not feel comfortable making a statement about a group they aren't part of."

Louden notes that black people aren't generally speaking of a unified group and the idea of a "black community" tends to be more of social or political construct. What constitutes the "black experience" is likewise a matter of debate. In Louden's case, his roots extend to Jamaica by way of a black father and to Saskatchewan by way of a white mother. In the end, Louden says his work becomes intrinsically black whether he intends it or not.

An example is an aerosol piece he created for the 2010 Hip Hop in the Park event in tribute to one of his favourite MCs, the late Keith Elam (a.k.a. GURU -- Gifted Unlimited Rhymes Universal), a major figure in

do with graffiti's popularity and evolution, and it's a part of a mythology many black people believe and have helped promote over the years. But if you really know your graffiti history, some of the first major artists were white guys who liked Black Sabbath not black guys who liked hip hop."

Despite graffiti's widely unknown white lineage, Louden still believes it can act as a voice on behalf of minorities, like his Canada Day 2009 collaboration with Bill Haring that focused on our celebration of Canadian heritage and how it's juxtaposed by our treatment of First Nations peoples.

Another minority group Louden would like people to better know and understand is graffiti artists themselves. The "Awareness Brings Change" collaboration with Haring was created on the only free wall in Edmonton, an area where Louden has spent a lot of time creating pub-

LOUDEN NOTES THAT BLACK PEOPLE AREN'T GENERALLY SPEAKING OF A UNIFIED GROUP AND THE IDEA OF A "BLACK COMMUNITY" TENDS TO BE MORE OF SOCIAL OR POLITICAL CONSTRUCT. WHAT CONSTITUTES THE "BLACK EXPERIENCE" IS LIKEWISE A MATTER OF DEBATE.

in the special feature with a work inspired by '70s blaxploitation star Pam Grier (as the shotgun-toting "Coffy"). While everyone is invited to participate in the artistic forum, Louden says he isn't sure whether non-Blacks will take advantage of the opportunity.

"I've spoken to a few non-black friends of mine about it and I know they wouldn't be comfortable doing so," he says. "I'm definitely curious about just who will be participating. Maybe you'll get to see the black side

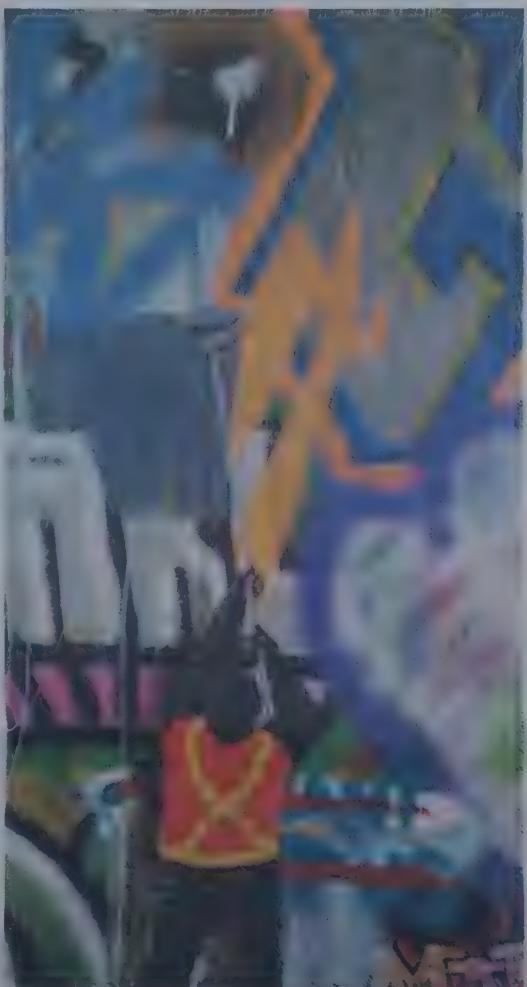
the world of hip hop. His love of hip hop notwithstanding, Louden says he tends to unconsciously paint portraits of people with dark skin, wide noses and bigger lips, anyway.

However, when it comes graffiti, Louden says don't be fooled, despite what movies like *Wild Style* and *Style Wars* might otherwise perpetuate.

"There is a prevailing stereotype that graffiti originated with young black African American and Puerto Rican men during the 1970s. That association has definitely had a lot to

do with graffiti's popularity and evolution, and it's a part of a mythology many black people believe and have helped promote over the years. But if you really know your graffiti history, some of the first major artists were white guys who liked Black Sabbath not black guys who liked hip hop."

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Louden feels there is definitely potential for more graffiti as art in Edmonton. | PHOTO SUPPLIED

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The Rabbit Hole Of Grief



The Walterdale presents *Rabbit Hole* — running now through Feb. 19. | PHOTO SUPPLIED

DEALING WITH EXTREMELY STRONG ISSUES, THE WALTERDALE'S RABBIT HOLE IS CHALLENGING

RABBIT HOLE

Walterdale Theatre

Runs until Feb. 19

★★★☆☆

BY KRISTEN RODIER

Written by David Lindsay-Abaire, this Pulitzer Prize-winning drama is directed by Walterdale Theatre's artistic director, Kristen M. Finlay.

A deeply emotional drama bravely portrays parents' grief at the loss of a child. We watch the ways in which different grieving styles separate the parents, Becca and Howie, as it sparks arguments about who is grieving their son Danny "properly." This distance between them makes

it impossible to support each other in their darkest moments.

This distance is framed between future life (a pregnant sister, Izzy), present potential (Jason, the teenager who was responsible for the death of Danny), and old grief (Becca's mother's decade-old grief over the loss of a 30-year-old son).

Becca's grief is not just for her son, but for the self she lost — no longer able to express her role as a mother she is left to question what she wants out of her life, something for which she couldn't have prepared herself.

Howie chooses to grieve quietly and stoically, but his pain runs deep as he sees the life he knew crumble before him. Spurred forward by their interactions with the other characters, Becca and Howie take a cautious, small, and impossible first step towards coming together in their

grief as they slowly let a little hope for the future creep in to their lives.

Because this play deals with such demanding themes, the emotional catharsis that the audience demands of the script is a challenge for the best of actors.

The community playhouse, and Finlay must have anticipated a difficult journey in staging the worst moments imaginable for the characters. The actors' deep empathy with their characters comes through even if in some cases the emotional portrayals seem a bit too deliberate.

This is a must see for anyone who is seeking an exploration of how hard it is to shift out of feelings of being either stuck in an immovable emotion, or washed down the river of their grief without a life jacket.

Little Known Icons

THE AGA SHOWS OFF WORK BY THE BEST CANADIAN WATERCOLOURIST YOU'VE PROBABLY NEVER HEARD OF.

WALTER PHILLIPS: WATER AND WOODS

The Art Gallery of Alberta, Feb. 12 - June 15

BY ALISTAIR HENNING

There are some artists that just don't get 'nuff respect. Usually it's because, while excellent in their own right, said artists don't fit into the conventional over-arching narrative of their time.

Walter Phillips, who died in 1963, this sort of artist. He was influential as a critic and a teacher in Western Canada while during his lifetime, but his own work, fine though it was, continues to languish in popular obscurity.

Thanks to the AGA, all this may be set to change when Walter Phillips: Water and Woods opens Feb. 12. It is hoped that this show will bring Phillips' work to the wider audience it deserves.

Ruth Burns, who curated the show, explains that "Phillips played an important role in the Alberta and western Canadian art scene. At the AGA, we see one of our responsibilities to feature Alberta's art history, and for that reason felt this exhibition was an important one to develop."

Burns says that while Phillips' work is fairly well known amongst art historians and collectors, "there is relatively little critical scholarship about him. The way in which he represents the Canadian scenery, both natural and built, is distinct from many other Canadian artists working during the 20th century. His work deserves serious attention."

Not only is Phillips a significant Canadian historical figure, Burns argues, his style is more resonant than ever with contemporary art and tastes:

"I am fascinated with how Phillips studies an intersection of built and natural space, whether this intersection occurs because of industry, leisure, tourism or agriculture," Burns says. "Also, while Phillips is widely recognized for his colour woodcuts, he was a fantastic watercolourist. You can see his influence on Tim Gardner, an artist currently included in the National Gallery of Canada's exhibition *It Is What It Is: Recent Acquisitions of New Canadian Art*. Both Phillips and Gardner are wickedly talented artists in the tradition of realism, and both present a cogent and nuanced reflection of the society in which they live."

So, on the basis of this enduring influence, it's not surprising that Burns is especially excited to present Phillips' watercolours.

"Watercolours have an undeserved reputation for being a 'gentle' medium," Burns says. "In studying Phillips' works I have been impressed by the capacity for watercolour to communicate many facets of light, colour and form."

It was Phillips' approach to art which set him apart — through the way he understood and transcribed the environment.

"What I think makes Phillips work interesting today is not so much his skill or his realism, per se, but his approach to his subject matter," Burns says.

One can only hope that as folks drop in to the AGA and visit this show, Walter Phillips, a largely unsung Canadian master, may finally get his due.

Show Some Heart

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OUTDOORS: WINTER WONDERLAND

Snow Effects



WILDLIFE FISH GRIEKOWSKY

THERE ARE A LOT OF GREAT OUTDOOR FESTIVALS THIS YEAR AND YOU'LL HAVE FUN - EVEN IF YOU CAN'T SKATE

You have to adapt or die in Edmonton (which means chicken out and move away for those of us afraid of embarrassing auto-erotic asphyxiation discovery). But for the stalwart, and I'm even going to throw in noble among us, the blue nards to face the cold have become institutionalized items - crystal wrecking balls defiant against this most terrible winter. The pounding beats and ice rides of Freezing Man is a tremendous example, but for those a little less eager to be surrounded by every fucking cop in the city while you have your self-defined version of powdered fun, I have to give an overall salute to Winter Light.

NEXT UP FOR WINTER LIGHTS IS HAWRELAK'S SILVER SKATE FESTIVAL, WHICH I AM BITTER ABOUT FOR PERSONAL REASONS, AND LOOKS LIKE A LOT OF FUN, ESPECIALLY AS THERE WILL BE FIRE SCULPTURE.

With the same vibe of municipal safety as the Street Performer's Festival surrounded by a hell of a lot of things made out of solid-state water, Winter Light has now thrown five parties in Hothville, AB (that's us). The next is Meltdown Friday, Feb. 11, responsible for the preamble, but I think the most interesting so far. It's a *co*-production by the Jube, which for my money is still the most acoustically versatile soft-seater in town.

But the action is outside in this case. Lindsay McIntyre is making a return-from-Concordia installation with a wall of light on the plaza, comprising dozens of grandpa film projectors and that friend to most living things known as light. McIntyre has been exploring concepts surrounding cinematic portraiture and the non-wall between documentary and fiction, though what we'll be seeing on the 11th (the event goes 7 p.m.-11 p.m. On the Jube's east side) will likely dazzle with no theory of a dead man required.

Dylan Toynemaker will be there making lanterns for the kids and middle-aged women who need to loudly chock every single thing they see and do, but actually anyone who really likes lanterns is welcome to ogle. Inside (the Jube, not the lanterns),

the Low Flying Planes (being Lynett McKell, Megan Kemshead and Cam Boyce) will harmonize about combinations of ketchup and camping. Most exciting to see her outside of her usual context, Lori Gawryliuk - DJ River Valley Girl - will be throwing out the stomping beats. I predict Bruce Springsteen will be involved and guarantee some dancing.

Next up for Winter Lights is Hawrelak's Silver Skate Festival, which I am bitter about for personal reasons, and looks like a lot of fun, especially as there will be fire sculpture. Man, imagine if you could freeze fire. Or imagine, perhaps, if you could pass that joint over already.

Another thing I want to talk to you about segues from that earlier mention of wrecking balls, which AC/DC used on their must-own DVD collection, *Family Jewels*. The Dirty Dudes are dusting off their Bon Scott shirtlessness for a Valentine's party on the 13th at the Black Dog, meaning there will still be time for the usual romancing the bone the next day as you try in vain to get onto the assembly line of the hurry-up-and-fucking-eat V-Day restaurant circuit. Given



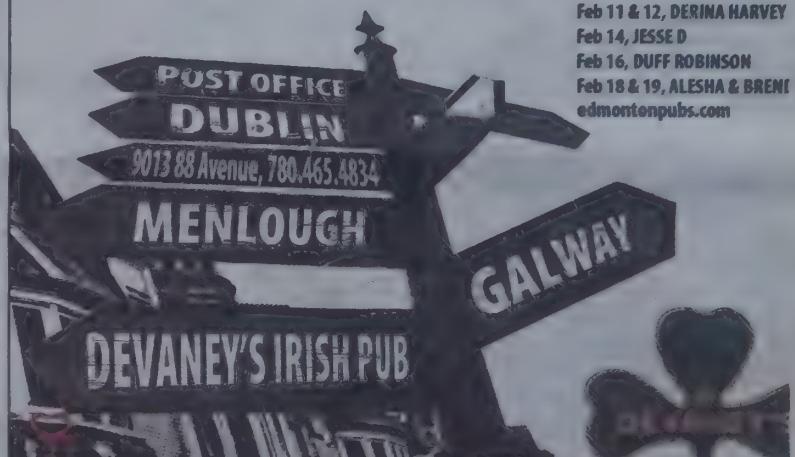
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LISTEN • BY FISH GRIWKOWSKY

Geoff Berner
Victory Party

Like rabbit tracks going through the back-yard, Geoff Berner's intellectual path is both mysterious and twinkling. I would call him the perfect Canadian musician in that he splices so much of the soup with history while simultaneously delivering a heck of a tasty bowl.

Berner has intentionally gone more Klezmer-ish here, trying to reclaim radical Jewish culture, as he puts it, that's "the opposite of the conservative, knee-jerk pro-Israel, judgmental bullshit that's emerged in recent decades."

It's a big goal, but man this album fucking kicks. Where to begin? The traditional slave song "Mayn Rue Platz" Berner keeps as a lament for the sweatshop worker, he just cleverly moves the location to China, where we get our goods with the same, blindered non-consideration we give the cow-processing factory. He recruits singer/efhu player Lan Tung for one of the most beautiful things I've heard in ages.

Another cover, Sluttard's "I Am Going to Jail", gets lathered with a Hungarian Chadic wedding beat and is a perfect song for our poor-neglecting times. Need a warm roof? Shoes? Get arrested!

Which Berner just might do if "Daly Polizei" gets as much play as it should. The beat is amazing, the lyrics even more so, which I'll quote at length: "There must be something magic down in the holding cells. Cause there's stuff that happens that just don't happen anywhere else. Healthy people dying from a sudden heart attack. Men who hang themselves with their hands tied behind their back. There's lots



of good and brave police, it must be true, I guess — it's brave to work with a murderer sipping coffee by your desk."

Fuck yeah. "Laughing Jackie the Pimp" is yet another example, a tale of what happened to the Jews when the Russians came to town. I don't want to trivialize that violence, but Berner handles it with so much fun I can already see Steven Spielberg crossing his arms. As interesting as an Antony Beevor trip through

wartime Stalingrad, Berner's captures as much character as any musical storyteller out there.

Pulling in Socalled's hip hop klezmer chops was just the right move to make occasional dance energy — found on the song about a golem — blend without seam. Hypnotic, full of spinning repetition, any of Berner's albums is worth getting. Why not make it this one, turkey tits?

★★★★★

OLD SCHOOL: Ministry
The Mind is a Terrible Thing to Taste [1989]

Sometimes polish is a perfect thing. The difference between this and *The Land of Rape and Honey*, drove Ministry from a jarring horror-film electronica to '50s car-chase metal.

Yet, Ministry's focus also went from a dreamy and hateful unease to direct and actually pretty funny satire. If you don't know the album, do yourself a favour, as we certainly live in its predicted, commercialized New World Order now. Strange how the screaming sounds so melodic now compared to FOX.

★★★★★



CD • REVIEWS

DESTROYER

Kaputt
(Merge)

★★★★★

Destroyer's ninth, *Kaputt* is one of the finest indie/adult contemporary/smooth jazz albums of recent memory. Dan Bejar, better known for his work with Vancouver's The New Pornographers, has produced an album of such beautiful complexity that his efforts might only find common ground with a Russian novelist. There are moments on *Kaputt* — especially on the title track — that the album's '80s synth-rhythm theme is almost comical. Yet Bejar deftly avoids the shark tank throughout with compellingly original lyrics backed by sobering brass, wind and string accompaniments. *Kaputt* provokes something that is, while deeply satisfying,

ultimately upsetting. To what end may only be known to Bejar, as in places the lyrics are cryptically personal. "Please remove your spurs. Come to think of it, remove your antlers. Haven't seen you for ages. I still fly into rages at the mention of your name, Christine White." If you exist Christine, though I suspect you don't, apologies appear to be in order.

SHAWN BERNARD

**TELEKINESIS**

12 Desperate Straight Lines

(Merge)

★★★★★

Michael Benjamin Lerner seems to be able to handle heartache well. Whether it is a desperate sense of hopelessness or unrequited romance, Lerner delivers it in the peppiest, "Friends of P" way. And much like the Weezer off-shoot, The Rentals, (who Lerner presumably really enjoys), Lerner's 12 new sunny, yet futile and immediate cuts are exactly the kind one should listen to if they're unhappy out of love instead of playing "Don't Think Twice" on repeat. "You Turn Clear In The Sun" stir up images of a 1966 jam session between Beach Boy, Brian Wilson and new-harmonious pals, John Lennon and Paul McCartney, upon discovery of a 21st century synth. "Please Ask For Help" sounds like a gleefully depressed Elliott Smith rattled over a sped up Smiths bass line. *Telekinesis' 12 Desperate Straight Lines* delivers song after song of pure and raw sugar-pain, massively accessible while maintaining wicked honesty and strong songwriting.

CURTIS WRIGHT

**THE GO! TEAM**

Rolling Blackouts

(Memphis Industries)

★★★★★

The Go! Team's third release takes off with "T.O.R.N.A.D.O." at a record pace, eclipsing every land speed record known. Schizophrenia takes centre stage as band's chants and frantic beats pivot around a myriad of instrumentation. With "Secretary", the band lays back with some lo-fi shoegazing fuelled by Californian visions of driving high above the massive Pacific. *Rolling Blackouts* changes pace without cause, but commonly sits atop the precipice of sprinting and jogging. The airy numbers recall Stars, while some of the bigger songs take flight with an abundance of brass and triangle, such as the instrumental "Bust-Out Brigade". Every once in a while, the collection of sound recall days of Brit-Pop or '70s TV commercials, but they always retains modernity in their school-yard chants and instrumental sandwiches. While not unequivocally distinct from their previous efforts, it's a record you'll play again and again. Clap your hands.

JASON WALLACE

**SMITH WESTERNS**

Dye It Blonde

(Fall Possum)

★★★★★

It's not always easy for young bands to exit the shadows of their influences; Smith Westerns seems perfectly content to not even care. *Dye It Blonde* is, in essence, spirited frolicking within the sandbox set by older (and arguably better) forbearers. However, the bravado and bittersweet attitude with which they do it is still certainly commendable. The album is that bittersweet type of indie rock, the kind that carelessly oozes teen heartache and girl-induced melancholia. "Only One" succeeds where many other tracks didn't, as the twisting melody darts in and out of the looping guitar riff. But altogether *Dye It Blonde* feels insubstantial. One too many songs are missing that catchy hook, or a tepid refrain is repeated one too many times. Certainly the talent and musicianship is there, but *Dye It Blonde* feels more like a foundation for something greater than anything else.

CHRIS LIU

**MY DISCO**

Little Joy

(Temporary Residence)

★★★★★

Melbourne trio My Disco mark their North American debut with *Little Joy*, a bleak jaunt though the murky waters of post-punk. Crafting their sound over the past decade, they are right at home on minimal music label Temporary Residence (The Books, Explosions in the Sky). "Closer" gets the album off to a ferocious start as guitars and drums crash together at a machine gun like pace. Single guitar notes are sustained over the course of "Young", as the drumming experiences a regression in evolution, first cascading in full waves of sound and then slowing down to a tribal drum solo. While still leaning on the repetitive theme of their sound "With Age" marks a tempo change for the album, blistering bursts of guitar are earmarked with the slow dirge of stoner rock bass as lyrics become a borderline guttural chant. With their melding of Wire-ish song structure and a dancey post rock beat akin to Battles, My Disco is set to turn both heads and stereo knobs.

ANDY COOKSON

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Stubblejumper Funk

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With Dr. J

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BY YURI WUENSCH

How far behind is Saskatchewan from a technological and musical perspective?

Dr. J, one of Saskatoon's preeminent DJs, just released the first installment in his "Rare Rap" series, which collects hard-to-find vinyl classics together on a limited run of 50 cassette tapes.

What, no reel to reel?

Dr. J must know what he's doing, however. In a past life, Jason Armitage was a gerrymander teacher working in Saskatchewan's public school system. About four years ago, he decided to pursue DJing full-time. Being as Saskatoon's metropolitan population is only about 275,000 people, it's no small feat. But Armitage says Toontown is more cosmopolitan than you might expect.

"It isn't a grind at all," he says. "The last two years have been the most fruitful due to the growing demand for DJs in Saskatchewan. A lot of lounges and restaurants are now seeing the benefit of having quality music in their venues. Not only does it create a better atmosphere for their clientele, it also draws more people out. I've worked hard for many years getting to this point and feel fortunate that I'm getting paid to do something I'm so passionate about."

While Armitage is originally from Regina, he says it's unlikely he'd be able to make a living as a DJ there. Saskatoon has long had a disproportionate amount of quality DJs, a by-product of its deeply rooted gay scene which evolved into a vibrant rave scene during the 1990s (the Plastic Puppet Motive parties were truly epic, groundbreaking and seemingly anachronistic events for an agrarian burg like Saskatoon).

The local resurgence in popularity of DJ culture and quality electronic music has offered Armitage greater flexibility as a performer and promoter.

For the past six years he has hosted Souled Out at Lydia's, Saskatoon's longest-running electronic music night. He also has a rotating list of residencies including a reggae night, In Rasta We Trust. For almost 10 years, Armitage has been the volunteer host of Expansions, a radio show on CFCR 90.5 FM Saskatoon Community Radio, where everything from funk and rare groove to disco and old-school rap can be heard.



Dr. J is making a house call to The Common Feb. 12 | PHOTO SUPPLIED

"It's enabled me to interview a huge roster of artists I might not have otherwise come into contact with.

Some of my most memorable interviews were with Kool & The Gang, Grandmaster Flash and Kurtis Blow."

Another pet project of Armitage's that has met with unexpected success is the Analog Museum. Initially meant to be a fun showcase of music and collectibles from his collection, it has since become a monthly event at one of Saskatoon's premier clubs, Scratch.

"The museum has everything from autographed album covers and vintage equipment to rare and hard to find video games and movies. I now spend five to 10 hours a week going to garage sales, flea markets and other troves to find treasures for

future shows."

He also routinely digs for classic 45 RPM vinyl singles and has enough of them that he's mounted two 45 Flavours tours across Canada. The success of 45 Flavours has been a bit of a fluke, he admits, but says his overall success makes him anything but a "flavour of the month." When you have a fondness for cassettes, vinyl, analog gear and classic rap (look for his own homegrown music label in the near future) that might go without saying.

"I have been in this scene for 20 years due to my passion, persistence and determination to make a difference. I love to see up-and-comers play a big room for the first time and think about what that means to them. You have to make it about the scene if you want to survive."

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Mighty Mouth Is On The Way

BEEN AROUND THE SCENE FOR YEARS, LOCAL HIP HOP MAINSTAY IS PROUD TO CALL EDMONTON HOME

RELLIK

Mighty Mouth Album Release Party and Video Premier With Touch & Nato, Advo & Shiest, DJ Short Top and DJ Creemz Friday, Feb. 11, 8 p.m. Crown Pub (10709-109th St.)

BY SEAN JOYNER

Since the early '90s, Edmonton hip-hop artist Billy "Rellik" LeBlanc has been writing, producing and performing across the country in an attempt to broaden Canada's awareness of Edmonton's music scene. He's shared the stage with some of North America's elite hip-hop artists and co-founded Won-18, one of Edmonton's most notorious groups. But with the recent breakup of Won-18, Rellik is left with a mind full of experience, and for the first time in his 20-year career he's finally going to do something for himself, with the release of his first solo album, *Mighty Mouth*.

There's a consistent theme to many of the tracks on *Mighty Mouth*. Rellik admits. Songs like "One Of These Days" and "Long Overdue" speak to his commitment to elevating both himself and those around him beyond the landlocked constraints of middle-Canada and on to a larger stage. But for the most part, Mighty Mouth is simply a reflection of Rellik's ever-expanding mindset.

"The overall theme was just to drop a solid album that general hip-hop listeners will get into. I needed to do this for myself, and not give people what they necessarily want to hear, but what I'm about — my story, my life and hardships that I've had to get past," he says. "It's basically a grown man making grown-up hip-hop, and it's key for me that I'm happy with

every single song — it needs to please me first, and hopefully the audience and the industry will follow."

The hopes of expanding his audience with *Mighty Mouth* aren't unreasonable. With so many years under his belt, Rellik has evolved into one of the city's most in-demand hip-hop producers. He's stressed the borders of his local fan base, yet there are areas in the country that still haven't been exposed to his music — or any music from Edmonton, for that matter.

"As soon as you've maxed out your audience and everyone in your region has heard you, bought your music and has seen your shows, you want everyone out East to see it; you want everyone down South to see it," he says. "I'm hoping that we can break down those barriers with some of the really good albums that are out this year."

Rellik's vision wasn't always so refined. While Won-18 seemed to decisively sit near the top of Edmonton's hip-hop scene for years, in hindsight he says that the group's business and marketing plans were practically non-existent for a long time. Basically, he and the people around him were simply doing what came naturally without any bigger-picture perspective.

"Everybody was kicking rhymes just to kick rhymes and having fun with it, and maybe we weren't taking it as seriously as we should have," Rellik admits. "The music was good, but we weren't pushing it as seriously as we could have been."

This was a sign of the times. The early-'90s to early-2000s has been referred to as the "wild west" era for local hip-hop.

At the same time, nightclubs, promoters and even audiences were sceptical of Edmonton as a hip-hop entity. Rellik remembers shows that were poorly promoted, sparsely attended and had no financial payout.



Rellik drops *Mighty Mouth* on Feb. 11 at the Crown Pub. PHOTO SUPPLIED

He would often cut his teeth on this developing scene by organizing, booking and performing at local hall parties, to compensate for the lack of nightclub support.

"It was definitely tough to get a club to have a hip-hop night, or even book hip-hop acts, back then," he says. "But now that there's more of a scene developed, it seems that everyone's trying to grind together. Everyone seems to realize that if we stick together, it's more likely to happen."

For now, Rellik's focus is on *Mighty Mouth* and his 'bigger picture' strategy — to be among the elite few who have made the music industry come to him in his home town.

"It's important for Edmonton artists to remain Edmonton artists," he says. "If you love this city like I love this city, then be proud to be from here. You can still spend six months on the road, but it's all where you hang your hat at the end of the day."

LOCAL COMPOSER • PROFILE

The Quartet Respect

LOCAL COMPOSER AND COLLEGE PROFESSOR IS HUMBLED BY HIS MOST RECENT EXPERIENCES

BY PIOTRGRELLA-MOZEKO

Charles Stolte is among those rare people whom other people love to love. As a seasoned saxophonist, the King's University College professor has built an enviable reputation for his outstanding performances — and for his unselfish support of his colleague composers' music.

The Chicago Tribune praises him for the "glossy technique and bluesy charm," while Ned Rorem, the

Pulitzer-winning American master, refers to Stolte as, simply, genius. But there is more. Stolte has been steadily building another career, a career as one of Alberta's most independently thinking and gifted composers. A series of works, including *Blumen* for organ and string orchestra, which caused quite a stir after its première in 2007, and his subversively titled *Conventional Concertino* for saxophone and orchestra, given its first performance in 2010, have made Stolte a much sought-after composer who can do no wrong. His most recent commission, a work for saxophone quartet, was given a great

welcome in Montréal when presented there in early February by the distinguished Quatuor de saxophones QUASAR.

"The performance was awesome," Stolte says, back from the trip to Québec, "and the audience reception of the piece, very humbling in its enthusiasm. I've heard a lot of positive comments — now I'm creatively pumped up and looking forward to writing other works!"

"The piece itself has a bit of his history behind it," he continues, "because I began considering it already in 2009. We had an international STOLTE cont'd on p. 19

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Up On A Balcony



The team behind Balcony TV Edmonton: (From L to R) Cheryl Wiwat, Sean Martell, Jon McLellan, and Pat Nguyen | PHOTO BY ALECIA WITTMER

**FROM A HIGH-RISE BALCONY,
A LOCAL SHOW EXPOSES
THE WORLD TO OUR
CITY'S BEST SONGS**

BY MATTHEW TOWNLEY

A "local website" on the worldwide medium of the Internet may seem like a bit of an oxymoron, but a few locals are trying to bring just that to the Edmonton music scene with BalconyTV.com.

Over the past seven weeks, Balcony TV Edmonton has hosted 13 artists' performances and accumulated more than 10,000 hits on their site. Being one of the smallest cities in the Balcony TV family that includes London, New York, Paris, and Mexico City, the Edmonton team is pretty pleased with how things have progressed early on.

The brand of website(s), which originated in Dublin, Ireland and started up in 2006, showcases that

city's local musicians performing on a balcony in their city — currently there are 16 different balconies across the world.

Edmonton's balcony has had the challenge of being the coldest one — having to sweep and hammer ice off the balcony for Owls by Nature to be able to play in -30 degree weather has given the local version a recognizable flair of being able to see the breath that accompanies every word coming out of the artists' mouths.

Yet, acts such as Doug Hoyer, of the Old Ugly Co. label, didn't seem to mind the cold, other than a few frozen fingers near the end of songs. Even with the resiliency Edmontonians prove over and over again, the Balcony TV team is looking forward to the summer season which promises a shirts-optional policy for the crew behind the scenes.

As Hoyer, and many other local artists can attest, the success of

the site so far hasn't been purely based on the number of views, but also through the fact that local artists are asking to be on the show, rather than the other way around.

"I heard about (Balcony TV Edmonton) through Matt Murphy of Audio Rocketry," says Hoyer. "He was talking about it, so I just sent an e-mail; thought it sounded like it could be fun."

With the success of performances like Hoyer's, Balcony TV Edmonton currently has 13 bands booked for performances in February and is booking as far ahead as April.

Despite how much the group behind Balcony TV Edmonton enjoys running the site, the local music scene experiences the real benefit.

The popularity of the performances by Joal Kamps and Audio Rocketry is a testament to both the exposure capabilities of Balcony TV and the talent that resides in Edmonton.

And perhaps Balcony TV Edmonton may not pull names like Andrew WK and Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros like other cities can, but if any Edmonton artists can get a few new people to hear their music, it is deemed a success. In this case a success that is growing mainly by word-of-mouth — both as a recruitment tool for bands or as a call-out for new viewers. The group is hoping to start working with local venues and radio stations in the coming months and welcomes any interested musicians.

To get a hold of the Balcony TV team, e-mail at sean@balconyteam.com. Look for new videos being posted on Mondays and Thursdays, with new performances by Doug Hoyer, The Joe, and The Weekend Kids coming soon.

STOLTE (cont'd from p. 18)

saxophone conference in Edmonton during which I heard that young and already fantastic sax quartet, Anubis, who asked me whether I had a piece they could play. Then, a year later, I met the QUASAF people, again in Edmonton, who also enquired about my music for the sax. It's funny — I'm a saxophonist by training and trade, but I did not have any new piece for a sax quartet. I had an older work yet; it'd been played so many times I was getting a bit uneasy about giving the score to yet another ensemble. I really wanted to write something reflecting my current compositional interests. Eventually, the two groups co-commissioned me and I received a generous grant from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts that enabled me to create the piece."

Stolte admits this is a dream opportunity for a composer — not to mention a local one. And to write a composition for two fine quartets

like this is even more remarkable.

"What is the piece about? You won't believe it!" Stolte exclaims, "it's called 'Erratica,' which refers both to its narrative, becoming very 'erratic' toward the end, and to what I could describe as the art of making mistakes. Errata is a list of errors found in a publication. I wanted to capture the process of playing difficult music, to which a sort of 'erotic' pleasure of making mistakes is strongly connected. It is the hardest task facing any musician to avoid making errors, there's much tension related to playing the score correctly — my goal was to explore that dynamic between what's written and final interpretive act, live performance."

Stolte is now focusing on several other projects, including a set of songs for the marvellous local mezzo-soprano and actress Michelle Milenovic. Let's hope these songs see the stage sooner rather than later.



"This land is your land and this land is my land,
sure, but the world is run by those that never listen
to music anyway."

-Bob Dylan

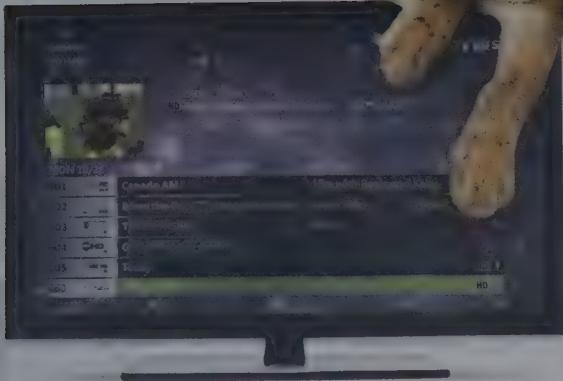
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ROCK • PREVIEW

Outstanding In Their Field



Black Dirt of the West strikes a pose in a classic Alberta setting. | PHOTO SUPPLIED

BLACK DIRT OF THE WEST
LIVE OUTSIDE OF THE
URBAN CENTRES, BUT
CERTAINLY ROCK WHEN
THEY MAKE THE TREK

BLACK DIRT OF THE WEST
With Hellpreacher
018 (8307-99th St.)
Friday, Feb. 11, 8 p.m.

BY ROBIN SCHROFFEL

There's an old saying: You can take the boy out of the country ... or can you? In the case of Black Dirt of the West frontman Rick Overwater, there was so much country left in the boy that he packed up his buzzing, established city life and headed back to the rural Alberta locale he'd grown up in. So much for rock 'n' roll, right? Wrong. Overwater, a longtime musician and veteran of bands including the Agriculture Club soon discovered that Lorne Petersen, a drummer with a similar background to his, was living just down the road. The pair recruited a second guitarist,

Shane Roberts, and a bassist, former Edmontonian Smooth Bomber, and thus the rough 'n' tumble, raucous country-metal hybrid Black Dirt of the West was born.

"The country is the perfect place for a rock band because you can actually blaze. There's no one to bother you," Overwater says over the line from his Olds-area acreage.

But rural Alberta is more than a place to play loud music, explains the father of two who rode the school bus in the '70s with the kids who used to live in the house he now owns.

"I grew up in the country and just like space around me. The city is where all the action is which is why it's awesome to have a rock band again. We make guerrilla strikes on the city regularly; we go to the city, the good clubs and the cool kids and all the fun shit like that; rock 'n' roll, we go there and get our fill of that and then we can kind of retreat back to peace and quiet if we want some tranquility," Overwater says.

"When you're raising kids and all

that stuff, it's nice to have that space around you. And I mostly just find it better for the muse. I hate to use that word, it's a lame word, but I'm a lot more creative out here. I spend a lot more time writing and creating stuff than I did in the city. I'm less distracted. It's been really good for my music," he explains.

Being located between the two rival cities of Alberta has also proved to be an advantage in some ways: Black Dirt of the West gets easy access to the music scenes of both

"I love Calgary but I've kicked around that scene for a long time. Because I haven't had a band with a record out, I haven't been touring in a while so we've just been playing local shows all the time. Some guys like that but I've been used to never playing the same town two times in a row, hardly, you know? I'm just ready to go play somewhere else and I love the Edmonton music scene," says Overwater.

Black Dirt of the West's debut 7" is out now on Winnipeg's Transistor 66 record label.

SEE & DO • FOREMOST & FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN EDMONTON

Kate Reid

The ARTery | Saturday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.
Being named "Favourite New Discovery" in 2011 by Penguin Eggs magazine, Kate Reid sings about lovin' and livin' and mixes in a touch of dry, self-deprecating style with great political awareness and wit à la Jon Stewart. Reid released the wonderful "I'm Just Warming Up" in 2009 and plans on releasing two more albums this year. Take the things you now know, add the performance Reid blessed Edmonton with last summer at the Folk Fest, and we have a serious contender. Tickets: \$19, available at Myhre's Music (8735-118th Ave.) and at Permanent Records.

Sasha Grey

Vinyl Retro Lounge | Saturday, Feb. 12, 9 p.m.
Take one part KMFDM's Sascha Konietzko,

and one part of Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and you have Sasha Grey's name. For those not in 'the know,' Miss Grey is perhaps most notable for pornography, but like the positions of the 'actors' in said film ventures, Sasha's career potential is limitless. Having starred on HBO's mega-hit *Entourage* as Vinny Chase's love interest put Sasha on the map (okay, perhaps a different map), Grey's most remarkable Hollywood feat yet was being cast as the lead in Steven Soderbergh's mainstream *The Girlfriend Experience*, and will once again be starring in (mainstream) theatres with *I Met With You* (Jeremy Piven, Rob Lowe). Kicking off a series called Fre5h which also features ... wait for it ... Steve Urkel (Jaleel White) and Carlton Banks (Alfonso Ribeiro) at Lucky 13. Sasha Grey will be DJing at Vinyl Retro Lounge because, yes, she's also a musician.

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The Illusionist Worthy Of Art Gallery Showing

TRADITIONAL ANIMATION LIVES IN STUNNING, TOUCHING OSCAR-NOMINEE, THE ILLUSIONIST

THE ILLUSIONIST

Directed by Sylvain Chomet.

★★★★★

BY MAURICE TOUGAS

Music purists often decry the loss of the LP, complaining that the sound of a compact disc, while pure and unsullied by the snaps and crackles of an LP, lacks the warmth of vinyl.

I won't weigh in on that debate, but it came to mind while watching *The Illusionist*, the luminous animated work by France's Sylvain Chomet (*The Triplets of Belleville*). I love anything from Pixar – what's not to

like about *Toy Story 3*? – but the one thing computer animation has never managed to do is replicate the hard-to-define warmth, the human touch – the soul, if you will – of an old school, hand-drawn cartoon. *The Illusionist* is one of those cartoons, a work of art that no computer could replicate. (It has been nominated for a best animated film Oscar, which it surely will lose to *Toy Story 3*.)

The Illusionist tells a rather melancholy story of an itinerant magician, plying his fading trade in a series of progressively more demeaning locations. He's actually very good at what he does (although the rabbit in the hat trick gives him trouble thanks to his cranky, fat rabbit), but it's 1959, and the world is changing. Rock and roll is developing, and kids would



Down on his luck magician promotes his show using his one and only poster in this scene from *The Illusionist*. | PHOTO SUPPLIED

rather scream at foppish bands like The Britoons than watch his act.

While performing at a village pub in Scotland, a teenage girl named Alice watches his act. She is captivated, believing it's real magic. They develop a bond, so much so that when the magician leaves, she stows away on his departing ship with him. The two set up a father-daughter relationship in a boarding house in Edinburgh, where he performs at a rundown theatre. The illusionist buys innocent Alice a series of progressively more expensive gifts, which she believes have appeared by magic. The increasing costs of the gifts force the illusionist to take a series of humili-

ating jobs to pay the bills.

The Illusionist is based on an unfinished script by Jacques Tati, the revered French comic known for his everyman character, Monsieur Hulot. Indeed, the illusionist's look and mannerisms are based on the Hulot character (a clip from Tati's film *Mon Oncle* is seen in the film). Like Tati's films, *The Illusionist* is virtually dialogue free, which presents my only real problem with the film. The story telling is a little muddled, with the motivations of the illusionist and Alice proving to be somewhat elusive without dialogue. (I confess that I had to go to the press notes to pick up some of the plot points.)

Exposition problems aside, *The Illusionist* casts a spell. It's gorgeous, you could take almost any scene from this movie and frame it. Every character, from the illusionist and Alice to a shopper passing by on a rainy street, is given personality under Chomet's pen. Chomet also wrote the lovely, evocative score.

The Illusionist may be a cartoon, but I wouldn't recommend it for young children. It would take an especially mature child to pick up on the story, and the lack of action will likely result in antsy little ones. It's a film for adults or mature teens, or anyone who appreciates the artistry of hand-drawn animation.

FILM • REVIEW

Anemic Eagle Doesn't Soar

BLOODLESS ROMAN EPIC IS OLD-SCHOOL FILMMAKING, WHICH MAY BE ITS UNDOING

THE EAGLE

Starring Channing Tatum, Jamie Bell.

Directed by Kevin Macdonald

★★★★★

BY MAURICE TOUGAS

The Eagle is a pleasantly retro piece of filmmaking set in the very long ago past, a time when men were men and women were scarce.

It is second-century Britain, and the Roman empire holds sway over most of today's Britain. Roman soldier Marcus Aquila (Channing Tatum, handsome enough to be featured on a Roman coin) takes command of a Roman outpost, and soon distinguishes himself for his bravery. But Marcus has another mission – redeeming the reputation of his father, Flavius Aquila, who 20 years earlier led Rome's 5,000-strong Ninth Legion into notoriously unruly Caledonia, only to disappear forever. Losing 5,000 men wasn't quite as big a deal as losing the Eagle of the Ninth, the golden emblem of all that is good and powerful about Rome. The Roman emperor Hadrian was so ticked off at the loss, that he build a wall, not sur-

prisingly known as Hadrian's Wall, to seal off the territory. The wall represented the edge of the known world, not unlike how Americans see anything outside of the continental U.S.A. (It's no accident that director Kevin Macdonald has all the Romans speak with American accents.)

Marcus is injured in battle, and forced into retirement. But, after saving the life of a Briton slave named Esca who is about to be executed Roman style (Jamie Bell, who played the title character in *Billy Elliott*), Marcus sets out to find the Eagle with only his slave to guide him in inhospitable Caledonia territory. Esca hates all things Roman, but since Marcus saved his life, he is bound by loyalty to serve him.

I'm not giving anything away to reveal that master and slave become fast friends, even after they are captured by the Seal people, so-called because they spend all their time singing "Kiss From A Rose" (sorry). What really happened to the Ninth Legion and the Eagle is revealed in the fullness of the film as the soldier and the slave endure all sorts of unendurable travails, in the process learning that one country's hero is another country's villain, the value of loyalty, etc.

While I admired the effort put into *The Eagle* – there is an refreshing absence of obvious CGI, and the set design in suitably gritty – a question kept popping into my head: who is this movie aimed at? A muscular man-movie like this should appeal to young males, but it is almost entirely bloodless despite multiple battle scenes (which, by the way, are botched by typically hyperactive camera work and editing). For example, at one point Roman captives are about to be decapitated, but the camera reveals only the stoic reaction of those watching. I suspect it was edited to obtain the more accessible PG-13 rating in the U.S., which will certainly disappoint gore-obsessed audiences who flocked to the off-the-charts, computer generated bloodshed and mayhem of *300*. To many movie fans of today, *The Eagle* may seem as quaint as a Steve Reeves gladiator epic. (You are allowed to ask: Steve who?)

Still, *The Eagle* is passable entertainment, and might even be welcomed by those who are disturbed by the 'can you top this?' level of violence in films; you could safely take your 12-year-old to this movie. But if you're in the mood for a good decapitation or two, you'll be disappointed

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FEBRUARY 10

vogue | MODEL CALL
We at SEE Magazine are gearing up for our next fashion issue, and we need your help! We're looking for classy folks with tats. Come down to our model call and show us what you've got! Check page 8 for more details. Atomic Zombie, 2:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 11

funds | RED, WHITE & CHEESE There is no better way to kick up your feet after a long week of work than with a nice glass of wine. Take a much-needed break and slip on adult grape juice, nibble on some cheddar and help some at-risk youth. Kids in the Hall Bistro, 9:30 a.m.

FEBRUARY 12

nealm | LOVE YOUR HEART February is heart month, and it's time to give your body a little TLC. Lower your risk of having a stroke or being diagnosed with heart disease by taking advantage of the free cholesterol tests today. Kingsway Mall, 9:30 a.m.

FEBRUARY 13

death | MURDER MYSTERY Quite possibly the best way to die is death by chocolate, and the Rutherford Players know this all too well. Get ready for all the suspense of a Scooby Doo Valentine's episode paired with a chocolate buffet. Rutherford House, 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 14

cox | VALENTINE'S DAY We know not everyone is keen on the idea of Valentine's Day, but no matter what your relationship status is, take some time today to share a little love and we'll return the favour. Follow us on Twitter @SEE_Magazine and win!

FEBRUARY 15

got | CRADLE OF FILTH If you've got yourself a pair of black leather pants you're almost ready to see the most successful British heavy metal band since Maiden! Come for the spectacle, stay for the show, but don't forget to check out the merch. Edmonton Event Centre, 6:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 16

ataia | STRAIGHT NO CHASER Imagine a group of sharp dressed men singing a cappella to some of your favourite songs! "Tainted Love", "Fix You", and "Under The Bridge" just to name a few. What better way to celebrate hump day! Myer Horowitz Theatre, 7:30 p.m.



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MUSIC

Thursday Feb 10

Live Music

ACCENT EUROPEAN LOUNGE - Jeff Morris with Erin Faught (Folk, Pop) - 9:30 p.m. • NO COVER.

BLUE CHAIR CAFE - Thursday Night Jazz fest. Thom Bennett with Dan Davis and Keith Rempe (Big Band, Jazz) • 8 p.m. • \$8 ADULTS, \$5 STUDENTS. LAST SET FREE.

CAFE HAVEN - Meridian Line (Bluesgrass, Blues, Country) • 7:00 p.m. • NO COVER.

CROWN & ANCHOR PUB - TwentyOneSeven (Rock) • 8 p.m. • NO COVER.

HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB - Elliott with Call Me Evil and Michael

Wednesday Feb 9

BLUES ON WHYTE - 10329 Whyte Ave • 780 439-5058

BLUE PEAR RESTAURANT - 10643 123 St • 780 482-7708

BLUE CHAIR CAFE - 9264 - 76 NW • 780-989-2861

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Trio (Jazz) - 10 AM - DONATIONS ACCEPTED.

BLUE PEAR RESTAURANT - Audrey Ochoa with Audrey Okha (jazz) - 6 PM -

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH - Three trios for clarinet, cello and piano feat. Alexandra Munro with Josephine van Lier (John Mahon (Classical)) - 3 PM - ADMISSION BY DONATION.

MCDOUGALL UNITED CHURCH - Music From Spain feat. Pro Coro Canada (Choral, Classical) - 7:30 PM - \$30 ADULTS, \$25 STUDENTS; CHECK WEBSITE FOR TX.

ON THE ROCKS - Seven Strings Sunday Presents Shane Philip with Jeff Morris and Azure Drum Group (Blues, New Age, Rock) - 9 PM - \$10 IN ADVANCE. E-TICKETS AT ELEVINE CA.

ROBERT TEGLER STUDENT CENTRE - Commedia Symphony Orchestra (Classical) - 2 PM - \$10 AND UP IN ADVANCE. SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY. CHECK WEBSITE FOR TX.

Monday Feb 14

Live Music

AVENUE THEATRE - JCL Productions and Foundation Concerts present *The Sadies* with The Sheepdogs and Guests (Rock) - 8 PM - \$20 IN ADVANCE. CHECK WEBSITE FOR TX.

BLUE CHAIR CAFE - Valentine's Special Set. Harpe Jazz Quartet Jessica Bell (Canadian, Classical, Jazz) - 6 PM - RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED.

BLUES ON WHYTE - Boogie Patrol (Blues, Gospel, R&B) - 9 PM -

DJs/Club Nights

NEW CITY LEGION - Madhouse Mondays with DJ Smart Alex (DJ, Metal, Punk) - 8 PM - NO COVER.

Tuesday Feb 15

Live Music

BLUES ON WHYTE - Boogie Patrol (Blues, Gospel, R&B) - 9 PM -

EDMONTON EVENT CENTRE - Grade of Fifth and Guests (Metal) - 6 PM - \$41 IN ADVANCE. SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY; CHECK WEBSITE FOR TX.

NEW CITY LEGION - Brings ya Karaoke (Karaoke) - 9:30 PM - NO COVER.

STARLITE ROOM - Foundation Concerts presents Finntröll with Ensiferum and Barren Earth & Rotten Sound (Metal) - 8 PM - \$28 IN ADVANCE. SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY; CHECK WEBSITE FOR TX.

YARDBOB SUITE - Tuesday Sessions: Thom Bennett Quartet (feat. Thom Bennett with Bob Tideley and Chris Andrew Mike Lent (Big Band, Jazz) - 7:30 PM - \$5 MEMBERS/NON MEMBERS AT THE DOOR.

Wednesday Feb 16

Live Music

BLUE CHAIR CAFE - Jim Hepler (Blues) - 8 PM - DONATIONS ACCEPTED.

BLUES ON WHYTE - Boogie Patrol (Blues, Gospel, R&B) - 9 PM -

GOOD EARTH CAFE/HOUSE DOWNTOWN - Breezy Brian Gregg (Folk) - 7 PM -

MYER HORDWITZ THEATRE - Union Events Presents *Straight No Chaser* (Pop) - 7:30 PM - \$32 IN ADVANCE. SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY.

O'BRYNES - Guinness Blues Week feat. Barry Campbell (Blues, R&B) - 9 PM - NO COVER.

OVERTIME SOUTH - Karaoke (Karaoke) - 9:30 PM - NO COVER.

DJs/Club Nights

NEW CITY LEGION - Prints 4 Punks feat. DJ Nick (DJ) - 11:30 PM - NO COVER.

OPEN STAGES

THURSDAY FEB 10

MARYBETH'S COFFEE HOUSE - Open Mic @ Marybeth's hosted by Bill Bonnah - 7:30 PM - NO COVER.

NAKED ON JASPER - Open Mic @ Naked On Jasper - 8 PM - NO COVER.

SATURDAY FEB 12

MORANGO'S - Open Mic @ Morango's Tek Cafe - 7 PM - NO COVER.

SUNDAY FEB 13

EXPRESSSIONZ CAFE - Old Time & Country Rock Jam - 1 PM - ADMISSION BY DONATION.

O'BRYNES - Open Mic @ O'Bryne's - 9:30 PM - NO COVER.

MONDAY FEB 14

DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB - Singer Songwriter Night @ Devaney's Hosted by Jesse D - 9 PM - NO COVER.

KELLY'S PUB - Monday Night Open Stage (feat. Open Stage @ Kelly's) and Guests - 9 PM - NO COVER.

TUESDAY FEB 15

LB'S PUB - Tues Open Jam @ LB's Hosted by Mark Ammar - 9 PM - NO COVER.

O'BRYNE'S - Celtic Jam @ O'Bryne's - 9 PM - NO COVER.

SPORTSMAN'S LOUNGE - Open Mic @ Sportsman's - 9 PM - NO COVER.

THE DRUID - Open Mic @ The Druid Hosted by Chris Wynters of Captain Tractor - 9 PM - NO COVER.

WEDNESDAY FEB 16

BRIXX BAR & GRILL - Eats N Beats Wednesday and friends - 6 PM - NO COVER.

DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB - Open Mic @ Devaney's hosted by Duff Robinson - 8 PM - NO COVER.

ELEPHANT & CASTLE WHYTE AVE - Open Mic @ Elephant and Castle - 8:30 PM - NO COVER.

EXPRESSSIONZ CAFE - Expresszionz Cafe Open Stage - 7 PM - ADMISSION BY DONATION.

HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB - Wednesday Jam - 9 PM - NO COVER.

ARTS & CULTURE

Exhibits

SARTISTS, I LOVE TU GALLERY 10718 124 ST - Black History Month Art Show - is both a showcase for Black artists from Edmonton and an opportunity to celebrate diversity in our community. Artists: Johanna Ahlyne, Cindy Crook, Latoya Farrell, Adrian Louton, Loren Maheu, Darren Jordan, artist/curator - DAILY TIL FEB 19 Info: 780 452-9662 tugallery.ca

ABSTRACT ART SHOW (TAYA ROSSI SCOTIA PLACE 10060 ALBERTA AVE - Tower Two-DAILY FEB 19

ALL THE PRETTY THINGS THE ARTERY 9535 JASPER AVE - by Phoebe Surana-Mehrt, dealing with female identity in symbolic terms - DAILY TIL MAR 6 theory.ca

ARE YOU HERE? RUTHERFORD SOUTH LIBRARY

RUTHERFORD SOUTH-OI - Finding Home On A Map of the World. English Undergraduate Student Association presents a written-word exhibit in the Library Galleria - DAILY TIL FEB 24

BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS GLENROSE HOSPITAL 10230 111 AVE - Medical students in the Art in Medicine Club created themed artwork using acrylic, ink, watercolour and oil. Mezzanine Gallery - DAILY TIL FEB 26 Info: 780 759-7799

CABIN FEVER THE ARTERY 9535 JASPER AVE - Renderings by an Unhinged Man by Smokey - DAILY TIL MAR 6

theartery.ca

CHANGING SEASONS GLENROSE HOSPITAL 10230 111 AVE

- An exhibit by Mary Parzych, reflects areas of the places she has travelled. Blue Curve Gallery - DAILY TIL FEB 26 Info: 780 735-7999

CYNTHIA FUHRER HARCOURT HOUSE GALLERY 3RD FLR, 10215 112 ST - I Make My Own Friends: Local art exhibits

a new body of work of people who do not exist - MON-FRI 10-5, SAT 12-4 TIL FEB 12 www.harcourthouse.ab.ca

DRESS UP GAMES VISUAL ARTS ALBERTA GALLERY 10215 112 ST - Roxanne Taylor's most recent painted series addresses ideas about contemporary costuming and everyday social performance in an effort to define an attitude and character that is distinctly Canadian - WED-FRI 10-4, SAT 12-4 TIL FEB 18 visualarts.alberta.ca

EXHIBITION CENTRE D'ARTS VISEULS DE CALBERTA 9103 - 95 AV - Painting some of our 160 members, a presentation of different mediums and techniques - DAILY TIL FEB 23 Info: 780 461-5427 www.savacava.com

FEATURE ART SHOW (ALLIED ARTS COUNCIL OF SPRUCE GROVE) MELT CULTURAL CENTRE 35 FIFTH AVE, SPRUCE GROVE - Water in Motion by Chris Gavigan, photographer - MON-THU 10-8, FR-SAT 10-5 TIL FEB 19 Info: 780 962-0664 www.alliedarts council.com

FOR THE LOVE OF ART WEST END GALLERY 12038 JASPER AV - New paintings from Grant Lee, W.H. Webb, Annabel Marquis and glass by Robert Held and David Thal - TUES-SAT 10-5 TIL FEB 26 www.westendgalleryltd.com

FOUNDATION RUTHERFORD SOUTH LIBRARY RUTHERFORD SOUTH-OI - Visual Arts: ART 134; Anna House, instructor, Rutherford Library South Foyer - DAILY FROM FEB 16 TO MAR 7

HENRI MATISSE: A CELEBRATION OF LIGHT AND LINE ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ - This comprehensive exhibition of French artist Henri Matisse showcases over 170 works that span 50 years of his career. The role that printmaking played in the development of the artist's career is emphasized, and features a selection of paintings, sculpture and drawings from the Baltimore Museum of Art's Cézanne Collection. Many of the later works displayed are being shown for the first time in this exhibition - DAILY TIL FEB 13

IN SEARCH OF LOST TIME VISUAL ARTS ALBERTA GALLERY 10215 112 ST - Debra Buchman Smith explores memory and the illusion of permanence through mixed media portraits - WED-FRI 10-4, SAT 12-4 TIL FEB 18 visualarts.alberta.ca

LANDSCAPES (ALBERTA SOCIETY OF ARTISTS) WALTERDALE PLAYHOUSE 10322 83 AV - Exhibition in the Gallery, by Loraine Shuba and Debra Houston open to the public during performances of Rabbit Hole & extra viewing hours - 7-4PM walterdaleplayhouse.com

LAURA ST. PIERRE VERSAILLES VENERABLE ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ - Using our society's most plentiful resource - trash - as a building material, St. Pierre transforms round found shapes into temporary installation structures. St. Pierre captures these DIY dwellings and environments in large scale photographs, which reflect our taste for the fashionable and disposable, residing somewhere between the resplendent and absurdity of consumer culture - DAILY TIL FEB 13

LIFE-LINE (SHERRI CHABA) HAROURT HOUSE GALLERY 3RD FLR, 10215 112 ST - A sculptural installation sparked by first hand accounts of the impact of industry in northern Alberta - MON-FRI 10-5, SAT 12-4 TIL FEB 12 Info: 780 426-4180 www.harbourhouse.ca

LAURA ST. PIERRE VERSAILLES VENERABLE ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ - Using our society's most plentiful resource - trash - as a building material, St. Pierre transforms round found shapes into temporary installation structures. St. Pierre captures these DIY dwellings and environments in large scale photographs, which reflect our taste for the fashionable and disposable, residing somewhere between the resplendent and absurdity of consumer culture - DAILY TIL FEB 13

LINES OF FLIGHT RUTHERFORD SOUTH LIBRARY RUTHERFORD SOUTH-OI - Join U of A Art and Design

students as they creatively investigate liberating escapes from standard visual art forms - DAILY TIL FEB 17

NEW WORKS SCOTT GALLERY 10411 124 ST - by Martha Cole: the "power of place" that is so characteristic of the prairies - FEB 5-19 - 10-5PM. www.scottgALLERY.com

PATTERNS IN GLASS MUSEE HERITAGE MUSEUM 5 ST. ANNE STREET, ST. ALBERT - Metis Design in Beads. The design and creation of beadwork by Métis women - DAILY TIL JUN 30 www.artshere.ca

PHOTO-ABSTRACTS MCMULLEN GALLERY 8440 112 ST - DAILY TIL MAR 13 www.friendsofphotography.org

PHRASES TO PAINT BY (WILLIAM G. PRETTIE) MISERICORDIA HOSPITAL 16940 87 AVE - Painting series originally inspired by the events of 9/11, incorporates select writings of some recent thinkers on the human condition - DAILY TIL FEB 25 www.williamgprettie.com

RUSS ALLEN GLENROSE HOSPITAL 10230 111 AVE - Wood-turned bowls from found materials around the Edmonton area and purchased exotic wood pieces. Art on the Inside Gallery - DAILY TIL FEB 26 Info: 780 735-7999

SKY LIGHTS (HILARY PRINCE) SCOTT GALLERY 10411 124 ST - Focusing on the dramatic prairie sky. Prince concentrates on the quality of the light, the ever-changing compositions and the feeling engendered by it - TUE-FRI 10-5 TIL MAR 19 www.scottgALLERY.com

STIMULATE YOUR MIND WITH FINE ART LANDO GALLERY 11010 105 AVES - Works by gallery artists - MON-FRI 10-5:30, SAT 10-4:30 TIL FEB 19 Info: 780 990-1161 www.landogallery.com

TERRY ISAAC ART SHOW PICTURE THIS! FRAMING & GALLERY 919 103RD ST. SHERWOOD PARK - Internationally acclaimed wildlife artist exclusive exhibition - 10-6 DAILY TIL FEB 19. terryisaacart.com

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA TELLUS WORLD OF SCIENCE 11211 142 ST - Your scenes from the legendary world of Narnia while learning about the science behind it - DAILY TIL MAR 1 www.terryisaacart.com

THE EXILE OF THE TREES GALLERY AT MILNER 7 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ - Paintings by Ricardo Capodio use surrealism to demonstrate how trees can tell stories about the state of our earth and their struggle for survival - DAILY TIL MAR 19 www.terryisaacart.com

DIMINISH YOUR MIND WITH FINE ART LANDO GALLERY 11010 105 AVES - Works by gallery artists - MON-FRI 10-5:30, SAT 10-4:30 TIL FEB 19 Info: 780 990-1161 www.landogallery.com

THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF NICHOLAS NICLEBY TIMMS CENTRE - Epic social satire with Brian Deadick, 2011 Mary Mooney Distinguished Visiting Artist - DAILY FROM FEB 11 TO FEB 19, AT 7:30 PM Info: 780 420-1757 www.timmscentre.ca

com

COME BLOW YOUR HORN (EDUC DRAMA SOCIETY)

MALCOLM THEATRE 9828 101A NW - A comedy by Neil Simon. Tickets at Gift Solutions, Leduc Library and MacBath Centre on show dates: FEB 11, 12, 18, 19PM, FEB 13, 19PM, FEB 19, 20PM Info: 780 965-9501 www.ledjordamasciety.ca

COMMUNION (THEATRE NETWORK) ROXY THEATRE 10708 124 ST NW - A captivating tale of a wicceraking mother, her estranged daughter and the therapist she turns to.

Filled with rich dialogue and compelling characters; a celebrated new play from prolific Canadian playwright Daniel Martin - DAILY TIL FEB 20, AT 8:00 PM www.theatrenetwork.ca

DEATH BY CHOCOLATE RUTHERFORD HOUSE PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE 1103 SASKATCHEWAN DR - A Valentine's Murder Mystery - a lavish chocolate buffet sets the stage for the latest mystery of the Rutherford Players - SUN FEB 13, 6:30-8:30 AM Info: 780 422-2697 www.rutherfordhouse.ca

DIE-NASTY VARSCONA THEATRE 10329 83 AVE - The Canadian Comedy Award-winning Improv Improvō returns for its 2014 season of romance, passion, betrayal, love, lust and laughs! - MONDAYS TIL MAR 30, AT 7:30 PM

RABBIT HOLE WALTERDALE PLAYHOUSE 10322 83 AVES - Edmonton premiere of the Pulitzer Prize winning play by David Lindsay-Abaire, 2 for 1 Thurs Feb 14 (the door only) - PM/FEB 14-15 & 19-20PM FEB 13 NOON www.walterdaleplayhouse.com

STIMULATE YOUR MIND WITH FINE ART LANDO GALLERY 11010 105 AVES - Works by gallery artists - MON-FRI 10-5:30, SAT 10-4:30 TIL FEB 19 Info: 780 990-1161 www.landogallery.com

TERRY ISAAC ART SHOW PICTURE THIS! FRAMING & GALLERY 919 103RD ST. SHERWOOD PARK - Internationally acclaimed wildlife artist exclusive exhibition - 10-6 DAILY TIL FEB 19 www.terryisaacart.com

THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF NICHOLAS NICLEBY TIMMS CENTRE - Epic social satire with Brian Deadick, 2011 Mary Mooney Distinguished Visiting Artist - DAILY FROM FEB 11 TO FEB 19, AT 7:30 PM Info: 780 420-1757 www.timmscentre.ca

COMEDY

BROWN ON BOURBON THE COMIC STRIP BOURBON STREET, WEM - The Bear's Paul Brown hosts this Local Talent Night - TUESDAYS AT 8:00 PM

COMEDY NIGHT CELLY'S 10338 109 ST - TUESDAYS AT 8:30 PM

COMEDY NIGHT SUNDAYS (LARS CALLIEU) THE DRUD 11606 JASPER AV - Hosted open stage for anyone wanting to try stand up comedy - SUNDAYS AT 9:00 PM www.thedruidedmonton.com

HIT OR MISS MONDAYS THE COMIC STRIP BOURBON STREET, WEM - MONDAYS AT 8:00 PM Info: 780 483-5999 www.thecomicstrip.ca

MIKE SOMERVILLE THE COMIC STRIP BOURBON STREET, WEM - Voted top 10 NYC comic to see - DAILY FROM FEB 9 TO FEB 13, AT 8:00 PM Info: 780 483-5999 www.thecomicstrip.ca

THE HYDEAWAY COMEDY NIGHT JEKYL & HYDE'S HYDEAWAY 10209 101 AVENUE - TUESDAYS AT 9:00 PM www.hydeaway.ca

IMPROV

CHIMPROV VARSCONA THEATRE 10329 83 AVE - CHIMPROV is Rapid Fire Theatre's longform comedy show. Here you will see crafty improv formats, intricate narratives, and one-act plays crafted to make you bust a gut! - SATURDAYS, 7 PM (NO SHOWS ON THE LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH) www.rapidfiretheatre.com

THEATRESPORTS (RAPID FIRE THEATRE) VARSCONA THEATRE 10329 83 AVE - Teams of improvisors battle in our squared circle. No political figure is safe, no preception left unpropped - FRIDAYS AT 8:00 PM

THEATRE

AUGUST SOCIETY CITADEL THEATRE 9828 101A AVE - AUGUST - Come meet the Westons! 2008 Pulitzer and Tony Award winning drama. Starring Fiona Reid - DAILY TIL FEB 20, AT 7:30 PM Info: 780 425-1820 www.citadeltheatre.ca

Readings & Lectures

CENTRE FOR READING: BOOKS TO FILM

STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY 7510 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ - Info: 496-0000 - FRIDAYS AT 5:00 PM

MARRIAGE RETREAT WEST EDMONTON CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 6151 199 ST - Past participants have called The Covenant Marriage weekend experience "divorce insurance." - DAILY FROM FEB 10 TO FEB 12, AT 10:00 PM Info: 780 499-2570 (ext. 249) www.edmontoncovenantmarriagetheretreat.com

MONTLY TELLAROUND (T.A.L.E.S.) EXPRESSIONZ CAFE 9938 70 NW - Everyone welcome - FRI FEB 11, 7:30 PM Info: 780 932-4409 expressionzcafe.com

POETRY READINGS ROUGE LOUNGE 10111 117 ST - With local poets. Info: 902-9500 - TUESDAYS AT 8:00 PM

POETRY READINGS LAVA CAFE BAR 11053 86 AVENUE - Info: 479-5382 - EVERY THIRD SUNDAY

STORY SLAM OFF HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB 15120A STONY PLAIN RD - Tell your five-minute original story on stage, to win audience donations. Followed by music jam - THURD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:30 PM

STORY SLAM OFF HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB 15120A STONY PLAIN RD - The Edmonton Story Slam Society proudly presents SLAM OFF, the fiercest literary showdown in town - 18+ - WED FEB 16, 7:00 PM Info: 780 915-8869 www.theshavenclub.ca

STROLL OF POETS: POETS' HAVEN READING SERIES

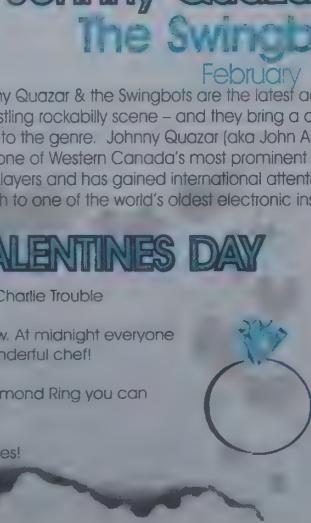
UPPER CRUST CAFE 10099 86 AVE - The Stroll of Poets Society invites you to celebrate the power of the spoken word with The Poets' Haven Weekly Reading Series - MONDAYS TIL FEB 11, 20 AT 7:00 PM Info: 780 422-8074

T.A.L.E.S. BOYS' BASEBALL AND GRILL 1045 80 AVENUE - Info: 932-4409 - FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

WRITER'S CORNER STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY 7510 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ - The library hosts a different author each month - LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 1:30 PM

Screen

FAVOURITE FILMS FOREVER II (EDMONTON FILM SOCIETY) ROYAL ALBERT MUSEUM 12845 102 AVENUE -



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB 15 - Moses Gregg

FEB 16 - Gordie Matthews

FEB 17 - The Rault Brothers

FEB 18-19 - Willie MacCalder & The Rault Brothers

SATURDAY AFTERNOON JAM 3-6PM

This is one night of fun you won't want to miss!

With your \$10 ticket, you will be entered in a draw. At midnight everyone

will be given a cupcake, homemade by our wonderful chef!

One of these delicious cupcakes contains a Diamond Ring you can

give to a special someone or keep it for yourself

Free Entrance and Roses for all the beautiful ladies!

This is one night of fun you won't want to miss!

BEATS STUDIO 11805 94 ST - SATURDAYS AT 1:00 PM Info: 780-761-0773 www.flameonenviro.com

HEART DANCE WESTMOUNT FITNESS CLUB 12840 109 AVE, EDMONTON - Exploring creative expression of the body through music - WEDNESDAYS AT 7:15 PM Info: 780-485-2515

MARIMBA LESSONS DANCE PERCUSSION STUDIO 7252 101 AVE - THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM Info: 780-485-2515

POWERALK INTERNATIONAL TRINITY UNITED CHURCH 8810 MEADOWLARK RD - Learn the art of public speaking in a relaxed and friendly environment. Whatever your "station" in life, good communication skills are essential - so what about doing something good for yourself! - THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM

SALSA ROCKS ON THE ROCKS 17140 JASPER AVE - Dance lessons with Salsa DJ to follow - THURSDAYS AT 8:00 PM SWING DANCE AT SUGAR FOOT STOMP ORANGE HALL 10335 84 AVE - Beginner lessons followed by dance - SATURDAYS AT 8:00 PM

TANGO CLASSES ORANGE HALL 10335 84 AVE - THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM Info: 780-905-8905

TOURS FOR TOTS ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ - Drop in art classes for families and children aged three-five - WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00 AM www.youraga.ca

Queer

G.L.B.T.Q. SENIORS GROUP S.A.G.E. BUILDING 115 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ - This meeting is for gay Seniors, also for any Seniors that have Gay Family members and would like some guidance. Classroom B - WEDNESDAYS AT 1:00 PM www.mysage.ca

COMMUNITY POTLUCK PRIDE CENTRE 9540 111 AVE - A potluck open to all members of the LGBTQ community. A time to get together, share a meal and meet people from the community. LAST TUES. OF THE MONTH 7PM.

HIV SUPPORT GROUP PRIDE CENTRE 9540 111 AVE - Sup-

SEEN IT LIVE GREAT GIGS YOU MISSED LAST WEEK



TALK TO THE HANDS - Smokey discusses the gorgeous artwork at his Cabin Fever opening at ARTery over the weekend. The show of doomed explorers on glass runs till March 6. | PHOTO: FISH GRIWOWSKY

classifieds

PHONE: 430-9003 | FAX: 432-1102 | EMAIL: classifieds@see.greatwest.ca

130. Coming Events

ALBERTA BALLET PRESENTS Montreal's Les Grands Ballets Canadiens in Mauro Bigonzetti's Four Seasons and Cantata. Vivaldi's timeless music lifts the heart, while Cantata explodes with the vibrant colours of the South. Performances: February 10 - 12, Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, and February 15 - 16, Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. Tickets at albertaballet.com.

EIGHT MINUTE DATE Speed Dating Event at The Edm Valley Zoo 4th Annual Valentine's Event! Fri. Feb. 11/12 Age Groups: 22-32, 33-44 & 45-55 and Sat. Feb 12 Age Groups: 12-38, 39-49 & 50-60. You must pre-purchase a \$40 ticket at www.eightminutedate.ca or call at 780-457-8535

Hearns 4 Arts Sunday February 13, 2011, 05:00PM MST, Calgary Italian Club 416 1st Ave NE Calgary. AB Not just another Valentines event! Join Youth Singers of Calgary for a fantastic night filled with great food, wine and entertainment while raising money for Calgary's upcoming talent. Each ticket includes a 5 course meal and a take home bottle of fine wine. Silent auction provides last minute gifts for that special someone. Hope to see you there <http://www.youthsingersonline.ca>

VILLAGE OF INNISFREE, Alberta 100th Anniversary July 22 - 24, 2011 Activities, pancake breakfast, supper & dance. Ticket available, call for information 780-592-3886.

190. Announcements

EIGHT MINUTE DATE Face to face speed dating for singles. February 11 and February 12 at the Edmonton Valley Zoo. Call 780-457-8535 or visit www.eightminutedate.ca

200. Business/Invest. Oppor.

BE YOUR OWN BOSS with Great Canadian Dollar Store. New franchise opportunities in your area. Call 1-877-388-0123 ext 229 or visit our website: www.dollarstores.com today.

200. Business/Invest. Oppor.

FARMERS/ACREAGE Owners Profit from growing Rhodiola Rosea (herb) 2010 Premier's Gold Award of Excellence for Rhodiola Rosea commercialization. www.argo.ca Free workshop, Monica 780-933-0199.

MOMS EARNING MORE Work from home part or full-time. No selling, No inventory. No parties. No risk. Visit www.momsearningmore.com.

410. Education/Training

COUNSELLING SKILLS Course Online Full instructor support, employment assistance Personal development. Work as a counsellor in your community Text materials provided New registration date www.collegemhc.com

410. Education/Training

LEARN FROM HOME Earn from home CanScribe Career College offers courses in Medical Transcription and Computers Transcription and Computers Great work at-home opportunities. Enrol today! 1-800-466-1535: www.canscribe.com: info@canscribe.com

510. Legal Notices

TO: DALE GIORDON SMITH. Take notice that on Thursday, January 27, 2011 an Order was made for substitutional service upon you of a Writ of Summons and Statement of Claim issued from the Penitton Registry, Supreme Court of British Columbia in Action Number 32325, by way of *this* advertisement. In the proceeding, a claim for damages was made against you arising out of a motor vehicle accident which occurred on or about May 6, 2008 in Penitton, British Columbia. You may obtain a copy of the Writ of Summons and Statement of Claim and the Order for substituted service from the Penitton Registry, at 100 Main Street, Penitton, British Columbia

16 WEEKS TO WELDER 1st year apprenticeship September 2011 intake Hands-on training, 12 weeks theory, 4 weeks practical Grande Prairie Regional College On campus residence. 1-888-999-7882, www.gprc.ab.ca/fairview

COCHRANE IGA in Alberta requires an experienced Baker. Competitive salary and benefit package. Fax resume to Cochrane IGA 1-403-932-2703.

CONTINENTAL ASPHALT Logistics seeks Office & Safety Manager in Irricana, Alberta. Prior experience in trucking industry required. Base, bonus, benefits vehicle. Email: hr@calogistics.ca or call 403-568-3355

1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

DRIVERS/OWNER Operators wanted. Truck Contractors need drivers with log haul experience & clean driver's abstract. Owner operators needed with 6, 7, 8 axle log trailers. Visit www.alpac.ca or call 1-800-661-5210 (ext. 8173)

EXCLUSIVE : Fanning/Caterpillar Mechanic training GPRC Fairview Campus. High school diploma, grade 12 Math, Science, English, mechanical aptitude required \$1000 entrance scholarship. Paid practical with Fanning. Write apprenticeship exams. 1-888-999-7882, www.gprc.ab.ca/fairview. September 2011.

HAVE FUN making money as an actor, actress or film extra on Calgary movie sets. All ages required. Phone 403-521-0077

1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

FREIGHTLAND CARRIERS a tri-axle air ride flatdeck carrier is looking for owner/operators to run Alberta only or 4 western provinces. Call Archie 1-800-817-9021.

GET PAID MORE Concord Well Servicing requires experienced Rig Manager to oversee all site rig operations for service rigs in North Dakota (on rotation) and Alberta Email jobs@concordwell.com or call 1-877-WRK-4CWS.

GET PAID MORE Concord Well Servicing requires experienced Floorhands, Derricks, Operators and Rig Managers for service rigs throughout Alberta. Email jobs@concordwell.com or call 1-877-WRK-4CWS

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College

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Portage

Seneca

College

NorQuest

College

port group for people living with HIV/AIDS - FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH

ILLUSTRATION CLUB: CROSSDRESSERS THE JUNCTION 10242 105 ST - SECOND FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 8:30 PM Info: 780-387-3343

MEN TALKING WITH PRIDE PRIDE CENTRE 9540 111 AVE - A social discussion group for gay, bisexual and transgender men to discuss current issues and to offer support to each other. SUNDAYS AT 7:00 PM

SENIORS DROP-IN PRIDE CENTRE 9540 111 AVE - A social and support group for seniors of all genders and sexualities that talk, have tea and offer each other support - TUE. AND THURS. 1 PM

YOUTH MOVIE PRIDE CENTRE 9540 111 AVE - Movie chosen by youth (aged 14-25), usually with LGBT themes. Popcorn is served. Info: brendan@pridecenterofedmonton.org. THURS. 6:30 PM

YOUTH UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VARIOUS LOCATIONS VENUES CHANGE - A warm and friendly place where lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, queer, questioning, and straight youth, can gather to have fun and learn about themselves and others in a safe and supportive environment. Info: 780-268-1971 - SATURDAYS AT 7:00 PM

YOUTHSPACE SOUTH OLD STRATHCONA YOUTH SOCIETY 10328 84 AVE - Drop-in/group activities - WEDNESDAYS AT 3:30 PM

Activism

HELP BUILD A HOME IN FEB (HABITAT FOR HUMANITY) VARIOUS LOCATIONS VENUES CHANGE - NE Edm. Beginners & tradespeople, groups & individuals welcome. Safety orientation, tools, equipment provided. No minimum number of shifts required. DAILY TIL FEB 28 Info: 780-479-3566 ext 232 www.hfh.org

classifieds

PHONE: 430-9003 | FAX: 432-1102 | EMAIL: classifieds@see.greatwest.ca

1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

GET YOUR FOOT in the training door. General Mechanic training. Learn basic engine theory, power train, suspension, job safety. First step to automotive/heavy duty apprenticeship. GPRC Fairview College campus 1-888-999-7882. www.gprc.ab.ca/fairview

HARWOOD FORD SALES offers licensed journeymen technicians. Excellent pay and benefits, new & modern facility. Diesel & transmission an asset. Moving assistance available. Send resume to: Joel Nichols, Box 2200, Brooks, AB T1R 1C8 Email: jnichot7@dealemail.com.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT SERVICE

Technicians/Parts Persons. Brandt Tractor has field and shop positions available in many locations throughout Canada including: Calgary, Cranbrook, Edmonton, AB, T5L 3C4 Fax 780-447-5781 Email: humanservices@gpc.ca WI thank all applicants for their interest, but only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

MEAT SPECIALIST — The Grocery People Ltd (TGP) is looking for a Meat Specialist, you will be responsible for providing technical, merchandising and operational meat expertise to the independent retail grocery stores that we service. This position requires an extensive background in the retail meat industry with a focus on training, quality control, marketing and merchandising. Along with your High School Diploma and a retail meat-cutting certificate, you will need strong interpersonal and organizational skills. Extensive travel throughout Alberta will be required. Candidates must be able to provide a clean security clearance if you have the experience, skills and ability to succeed in this position, please send a resume stating salary expectations to: Human Resources, The Grocery People Ltd., 14505 Yellowhead Trail, Edmonton, AB, T5L 3C4 Fax 780-447-5781 Email: humanservices@gpc.ca WI thank all applicants for their interest, but only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

PUT POWER into your career. As a Fairview Power Engineer On-call/pump operator lab 4th Class Part A 3rd Class. Affordable residences. GPRC Fairview Edmonton, AB, T1R 1C8 Fax 780-447-5781 Email: tgusinger@hotmail.com WI thank all applicants for their interest, but only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

SEEKING A CAREER IN the Community Newspaper business? Post your resume for FREE right where the publishers are looking. Visit: www.awna.com/resumes/add.php

WANTED Experienced Civil, Paving and Quality Control Personnel to fill various positions at Large, BC road construction company. Send resume to: P.O. Box #433, Kamloops, BC, V2C 5M8 or to paverswanted@yahoo.ca

WANTED Shop & Field Journeyman Mechanics & Apprentice Mechanics in the Bonnyville, Alberta area. Competitive benefits & compensation offered. Please forward resume to: b_rooks@maz.ca

1600. Volunteers Wanted

Canadian Liver Foundation: Day office volunteers required immediately. Training provided. Email Carmen at CBoyle@liver.ca

Canadian Liver Foundation. Various volunteer positions available immediately. Email Carmen at CBoyle@liver.ca

1600. Volunteers Wanted

NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS NEEDS YOU! The Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts is looking for a volunteer Attendant to our collective of artists with developmental disabilities and GALLERY ATTENDANTS!!! watch over our gallery. Come share your talents and passion while gaining valuable work experience in the field! Contact volunteer@nihaggertyart.ca

1700. Employment Wanted

CAREGIVERS/NANNIES with 7 months training and/or one year experience are looking for live-in employment with elderly, disabled or families needing child care. 780-909-0005. www.worldwidescaregivers.ca

2020. Musicians Wanted

Bands/Folk player wanting other musicians for shows. Call Derek 780-466-7632 Drummer needed for t/tvise, cover band Shows booked Serious inquiries only. 780-999-8149

Modern rock band FTGU seeks bass player and drummer. Jam space preferable. Contact Sid tgusinger@hotmail.com

2200. Massage Therapy

IF YOU'RE TIRED OF INEFFICIENT THERAPY. Therapeutic Massages Open Saturdays. Hand appointment only 1-780-866-6139 (Edmonton)

Massage Therapy, Relaxation, Therapeutic, Deep, Sport, Reflexology, Acupuncture, Centre 8211 #103 8925-82 Ave Edmonton Tjaninarmr@bellblackberry.net 770-238-8108

Transformational massage, sexualological bodywork, tantra massage

Licensed master massage therapist 780-633-6623 www.secretsof Tantra.com

3010. Auctions

ANTIQUES CANADIANA and Collectible Auction. Saturday, February 12, 11 a.m. Heritage Inn, High River. Selling the best oak and walnut pieces in North America. www.mcinenly.com Molinley Auctions.

BUD YAYNES Gun Auction, Sat. 1-8 a.m., Bay 4, 7429-49 Ave, Red Deer Over 200 fine guns. R. Eamor saddle Toy cars. Phone 403-347-5855. www.budhaynesauctions.com

5010. Auctions

LAPTOPS AND DESKTOPS from \$399 or \$25/month. Huge selection of quality brand name. Easy installments financing and flexible payment options. Call 1-877-999-9992.

METAL SIDING/ROOFING Best prices! 36" Hi-TenTough 29ga Galvalume \$59 sq ft. Colors \$65 sq ft. IN STOCK 25/30 year warranty. ALTA-WIDE Builders Supplies 1-888-263-8254.

RODENT AND WEATHER proof sea containers 20 and 40 ft. Great for storage. Also livestock, coral panels starting at \$55. Calgary, Alberta. 403-540-4164. 1-866-517-8335

MODEL SHOW Home Sale. Save up to \$13,000. Heated for viewing, large selection. Making room for new models. Visit JandellHomes.com or call 1-877-804-5381.

SEACAN CONTAINERS LTD New and used cargo worthy 8' 9", 10', 20', 40', 48', 53' office units, wind and water tight, delivery available. Phone 780-440-4037 Fax 780-440-4037

PLEASANT HOMES LTD We Won't Be Beat Call 1-866-962-0238. www.pleasanthomes.ca

5100. Cars

\$0 DOWN & we make your 1st payment at Auto Credit Fast. Need a vehicle? Good or bad credit - call Stephanie 1-877-792-0593. www.autocreditfast.ca DNL 30309

STEEL BUILDING Winter Sale \$349 to \$11,684. Immediate orders only - free shipping, some exclusions up to 90 days to pay Deposit required. Pioneer Manufacturers since 1989 1-800-668-5422 See current specials. www.pioneersteel.ca

STEEL BUILDINGS priced to clear. Holding 2010 steel prices on many models/sizes Ask about free delivery! Call for quick sale quote and free brochure 1-800-668-5111 ext. 170.

5210. Auctions

COLLECTOR CAR AUCTION & SPEED 'N CUSTOM Show, March 18 - 20, 2011, Red Deer Westerner Park. Featuring George Barris and indoor car show! Exhibitor space available. Consign your car or estate today. 4 0 3 - 3 9 6 - 0 3 0 4 : www.alpinesteelbuildings.com

3240. Travel/Trade

ITALY VACATION RENTALS in beautiful paradise rural setting Central Abruzzo, 2 hours east of Rome. Fully furnished villas, sleeps two adults, two children. www.giamma.com. 403-800-5625

3315. Building Supplies

#1A STEEL Building Supply Reach over 1 million readers weekly Only \$259 + GST (based on 25 words or less). Call this newspaper NOW for details or call 1-800-282-6903 ext. 228.

PROVINCE-WIDE Classifieds REACH over 1 million readers weekly Only \$259 + GST (based on 25 words or less). Call this newspaper NOW for details or call 1-800-282-6903 ext. 228.

3410. Grain/Feed/Hay

DEALERS WANTED Hannas Seeds needs agents to sell Alfalfa, Clovers, Grasses Hay, Pasture, Turf & Reclamation Mixtures. Contact Trish McLeod 1-800-661-1529 or trish.mcleod@hannasseeds.com

3210. Misc. For Sale

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3220. Motorcycles

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AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 – FEB. 18)

Takin' on too many tasks'll cause you trouble. Sure, you got tons of pep to your step and you're a regular tiger in a T-shirt, but tryin' to do too many things at once results in not doin' much of anything at all. Trim back your workload this weekend to relax and enjoy one or two things at max.

PISCES (FEB. 19 – MARCH 20)

Well, finally the forces of fate have put you in a figurative fortress of near-infallibility. Your feet are firmly planted and your needs have all been granted, but you're gettin' so bored you can barely stand it! Want a change? Once you leave your safe setup then your boredom will let up.

ARIES (MARCH 21 – APRIL 19)

Maybe out in the wildness it's cool for your kind to run around and do whatever they want to get their horns curled, but this is the city. Whether it's an agent of G.O.D., the local constabulary, credit card companies or just a creep with a pair of binoculars, somebody's watchin' you. You who are horned have been warned!

TAURUS (APRIL 20 – MAY 20)

OK, so you've been dreamin' about it for long enough, but when are you gonna get offa your grass-grazin' ass and go for it? You're good enough to get it, so there's no need for you to fret it. Well, what are you waitin' for? Start before the weekend while the moon's still in your house.

GEMINI (MAY 21 – JUNE 20)

One nice thing about screwin' up is that it turns someone from a smarty-pants know-it-all to a more open-minded individual. Once they realize they don't have it all figured out yet, they finally start to learn something. So you see, Gemini, there's still hope for you two, too.

CANCER (JUNE 21 – JULY 22)

This is definitely the wrong weekend to work your wily ways on those around you. No matter how bad you want it, being manipulative with the rest of the human race will only blow up in your face. Let everything happen at its own speed and you'll get everything that you need.

LEO (JULY 23 – AUG. 22)

Unfortunately, due to the workings of fate, you've had some funds fall into your lap. How can that be unfortunate, you say? Well, it brings out temptation in search of its prey — you! And there comes a time when you can't easily confront it. Consult someone you trust before you do somethin' dumb and go bust.

VIRGO (AUG. 23 – SEPT. 22)

In mid-week it seems like you're in your own little fantasy world. Well, you are and it is your own, so keep it to yourself. Otherwise others'll try to take advantage of your vulnerable state without you even knowin' it. Stick to your daily routine and keep your hands clean.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23 – OCT. 22)

This week it'll feel like you have the energy to explore every option and opportunity open to you, but that's exactly what you shouldn't do. You'll be successful at whatever you do, so make sure it'll fulfill you. Bein' good at something you hate is a miserable fate so stick with what you love and your life'll be great.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23 – NOV. 21)

Neptune may be your boss, but you need a week off. You've been spending so much time in the murky depths that you're startin' to grow gills. Get onshore. Breathe the air. Stand in the Sun! The first few steps may freak you out, but a couple of days back in this world will erase all your doubts!

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 – DEC. 21)

Y'know, the concept of peace is built on compromise. You can each be content, even though still you dissent. But when one of you figures your needs are bigger, somebody's nose'll end up gettin' bent!

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 – JAN. 19)

No nonsense. Calm. Rational. You Caps are known for your confidence and the respect you command. But you can forget about all that crap. By next week the moon and Venus'll have you quiverin' like a school kid who's close to their first crush — one look your way and you uncontrollably blush. You're so cute.

SAVAGE (cont'd from p. 30)

Again, if you leave your current husband for the love of your life, SCIL, it won't be long before you're cheating on your third husband and preparing to uproot your kids a third/second time.

I know it, you know it, everyone out there reading this knows it, even your current husband seems to know it. So just stay put, okay?

All in all, I've felt like we've both been pretty mature and things are going well.

The complication: We still find each other attractive and we work very well together sexually. So she proposed an FWB arrangement, and I said yes. We laid down ground rules — we are not together, we are just friends who fuck, so no "I love you," no commitments, no

finds a new boyfriend and ends your FWB arrangement?

If you can honestly answer, "I'll be happy for her," then keep fucking — but don't forget to ask for your balls back when she dumps you that second time.

If you can't say that and you decide to keep fucking the ex anyway, CRAP, you wouldn't be the first lovesick dumpee who agreed to enter into an FWB arrangement with an

YOU WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST LOVESICK DUMPEE WHO AGREED TO ENTER INTO A FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS ARRANGEMENT WITH AN EX. IF THE SHORT-TERM REWARDS (ALL THAT HOT SEX) AND THE POTENTIAL LONG-TERM PAYOFF (GETTING BACK TOGETHER) MAKE THE RISK SEEM WORTHWHILE, THEN KEEP FUCKING.

My girlfriend of two years, my first real relationship, broke up with me a month ago. Although I felt like shit for most of that month, we somehow managed to struggle through to a close friendship. I wouldn't say I'm entirely over her, but I understand why it happened and that we won't be getting back together.

expectations—and we started having hot sex.

Is this foolhardy? We both know that I'd prefer something more. So the question remains: Should we keep fucking?

Can't Recall Acronym Procedure

How are you going to feel when your ex-girlfriend/current-fuck-buddy

ex. If the short-term rewards (all that hot sex) and the potential long-term payoff (getting back together) make the risk seem worthwhile, then keep fucking.

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Your Cheatin' Heart



SAVAGE LOVE DAN SAVAGE
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I've written before, but I didn't hear back from you — probably because my e-mail didn't contain flogging or santorum or whatever. But I won't be IGNORED, Dan. I'm a 32-year-old female. Second marriage, two

person was a jerk who left me for one of my friends back in high school. But he was and still is the love of my life. Always has been. Always will be. He is not married, has never been married, and has no children. We began an affair about seven months after finding each other. My marriage, my second marriage, had been rocky before this. My second husband, of three years, stopped having sex with me after I became pregnant, and this continued after our child was born. We tried counseling. It didn't help. In no way am I using this as an excuse. I know what I've done is wrong. But I also have a pretty bad track record and have cheated on every

didn't have much to say to you and I still don't. I had the same reaction reading your e-mail today that I had reading all the other e-mails you've sent.

My reaction is a little selfish, and I'm a little embarrassed to share it with you. But you keep pressing me, SCIL, and so here it is:

THIS BITCH CAN GET LEGALLY MARRIED AND I CAN'T?!?

Sorry, sorry, sorry. That was crutty of me — nowhere near the level of respectful professionalism that people expect of me — and so now I'm going to have to make amends by scrounging up some of that advice shit you're after. But I'm going to offer you my advice on one condition: You don't write to

YOU DIDN'T CHEAT ON HIM BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T GET AROUND TO IT. YOU TWO BROKE UP WHEN YOU WERE 15 YEARS OLD. IF YOU'D BEEN WITH HIM A LITTLE LONGER, YOU WOULD'VE CHEATED ON HIM LIKE YOU'VE CHEATED ON EVERYBODY ELSE.

kids: one kid with my ex and one with the man I cheated on my ex with (my current husband). My problem: A year ago, I found my "first love" on a social network. I'd been looking for him off and on for more than 16 years. This

man I've ever been with, except for my first love.

This man, my first love, is the worst person in the world for me. Yet I'm in love with him. I have ALWAYS been in love with him. He wants me to leave my white-collar husband for him; a very blue-collar guy. I live in a nice home in the suburbs; my first love lives in a small apartment in the city.

Five months after we began having sex with each other, my current husband found out. Instead of leaving me, he has turned into a different man: extremely loving and attentive. He says this experience has made him realize how much he loves me and that he doesn't want to lose me.

My other problem: I didn't begin this affair to get my second husband's attention. I began it because I'm in love with my first love and always have been. My husband knows of my deep feelings for my "first." I mention divorce often, but it falls on deaf ears. I want to do what is best for my kids — and that would be staying right where I am. But I feel my only chance for "true" love, if there is such a thing, is passing me by. I've never felt for anyone as I do for this man. Every man who has come into my life AFTER him knew about him and knew that if he ever came back for me, I was gone. This includes my current husband, Dan, pull out all the stops on this one, as you famously do, and please tell me what to do.

Serial Cheater In Love

I've read what you've written before, SCIL, but I didn't respond because I

me ever again.
OK!

You say you've cheated on every man you've ever been with, with the exception of your "first love," SCIL. You seem to be engaged in a little circular reasoning/magical thinking here — you've concluded that he must be the love of your life because you didn't cheat on him, and you didn't cheat on him because he's the love of your life.

No. You didn't cheat on him, SCIL, because you didn't get around to it. You two broke up when you were 15 years old. If you'd been with him a little longer, you would've cheated on him like you've cheated on everybody else.

If you leave your current husband and break up your first child's second home and your second child's first home, it won't be long before you get around to cheating on the love of your life, too. Because you're a cheater, SCIL, a habitual, serial cheater. You're precisely the kind of person who shouldn't make monogamous commitments.

Or get married. Or have children. So what should you do? Stay? Go? Frankly, SCIL, I don't give a fuck what you do.

Stay or go, it's not going to make a fuck of a lot of difference. Your personal life is a mess, SCIL, and it always will be. Because, you see, whenever you go, there you are.

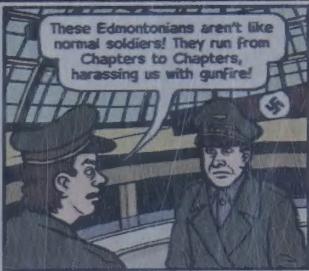
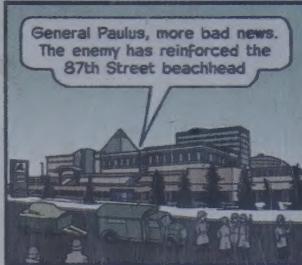
That said: If your current husband doesn't mind being cheated on, if he can put up with your affairs and wants to put your children first, then I think you should stay with him for the sake of your kids. They deserve whatever stability and continuity you can provide for them between infidelities.

SAVAGE Cont'd on p. 29

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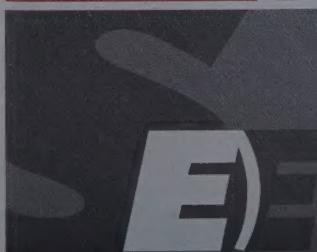
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